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Islamic Affairs

Organizations Express Solidarity With Palestinians

ICO: Jerusalem's Identity Threatened

LD2208132393 Riyadh SPA in English 1250 GMT 22 Aug 93

[Text] Jeddah, Aug 22, SPA—The Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) [ICO] has warned of continued Israeli attempts to alter the Islamic identity of Jerusalem and prevent Palestinians from entering it.

The organization's warning was contained in a statement, which it released it on Saturday [21 August] on the occasion of the 24th anniversary of the heinous crime of burning of al-Aqsa mosque by the Zionists.

The OIC hailed the struggle of the Palestinian people to protect Jerusalem and resist Israeli occupation, and called on the international community to halt Israeli practices and all that jeopardizes the city of Jerusalem.

The OIC confirmed the Islamic nation's solidarity with the Palestinian people and their just cause, which is at the forefront of all Islamic issues.

World League Calls For Cooperation

LD2208193393 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1645 GMT 22 Aug 93

[Text] Mecca, 22 Aug (SPA)—The Islamic World League Secretariat General has appealed to the Islamic nation to continue to render all types of assistance to the Palestinian people. It called on the Islamic countries to channel their international influence toward bringing pressure to bear on the Israeli Government to halt its oppressive practices against the unarmed occupied people of Palestine.

In a statement it issued today on occasion of the Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, the Islamic World League Secretariat General pointed out that the Israeli authorities are still besieging a number of Palestinian towns and villages in the occupied West Bank and Gaza sector, while the enemy forces are carrying out various forms of oppression against the civilians there, which confirms the aggressive nature of the Jewish leaders. The Islamic World League Secretariat General called on the international community to prevent Israel from continuing to blockade Holy Jerusalem and other occupied Palestinian towns and pointed out that the continuing international silence vis-a-vis the Israeli oppression encourages aggression against an unarmed and occupied people.

The league called on the Islamic Conference Organization to intensify its media and political efforts to expose the Israeli oppression before world public opinion and to appeal to all international organizations to actively participate in removing the injustice and the blockade from Holy Jerusalem and other oppressed Palestinian towns.

Palestinian Affairs

Crisis Prompts Further Action by PLO Leadership

Diplomats Asked To Resign

NC2408112593 Paris AFP in English 1055 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Aug 24 (AFP)—The PLO has sacked local staff at its diplomatic missions and has asked its representatives to take voluntary redundancy [as received] because of the organisation's financial crisis.

Several Palestinian officials feared the cuts were a prelude to liquidating the 29-year-old Palestine Liberation Organisation, which has around 15,000 members.

The PLO's political department chief, Faruq Qaddumi, has sent a circular to the organisation's offices around the world ordering them to fire locally hired employees and asking for voluntary redundancies.

"We have waited for more than three months to get our salary. But what we got is a circular from the PLO leadership telling us that anyone can resign if he wishes," said a Gulf-based PLO official.

"It is aimed at liquidating the organisation and amounts to a final blow to its institutions so they will be handed over to Israel with no spirit," he charged, declining to be named.

"But we will not resign because we are strugglers not employees. We joined the PLO to fight for our land not under any business contract."

The official read the brief circular to AFP by telephone, saying PLO offices in the Gulf had been in touch over the circular and all their members were refusing to resign.

The Tunis-based PLO has 100 missions around the world, 75 of which are recognized as full-fledged embassies.

The organisation is suffering its worst crisis due to political and financial woes, notably because of a cut in aid from the oil- rich Gulf because of the organisation's sympathy for Iraq after the 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Some PLO officials have blamed its leader Yasir 'Arafat for the crisis and called for his resignation, including the military chief in Lebanon of the organisation's mainstream Fatah group, Munir Miqdah.

Once the wealthiest guerrilla group in the world, the PLO has now been forced to sell part of its assets.

"The most serious thing in this crisis is that the PLO leadership has abandoned the families of martyrs. They have not received a penny for more than five months," another Gulf-based PLO official complained.

"This is the worst crisis in the PLO's history because it is internal while previous crises were mainly caused by external factors," one official said.

"We believe that those who are responsible for the crisis and all previous mistakes must resign not us. By asking us to resign, the PLO is abandoning its members after several years of serving our national cause."

One official said he had been in the PLO for 25 years and would look for another job but would not submit his resignation.

"You can resign from a bank or a company but not from a struggle for freedom and identity. I have contacted the PLO headquarters and all they had to say is that I can go to Lebanon, Syria or Jordan and report to PLO offices there."

According to the circular, PLO representatives who resign would receive one-third of their severance pay now and the rest in monthly installments.

The organisation has closed several institutions in the Israeli- occupied territories and abroad because of the crisis and slashed its aid to the Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza Strip by two- thirds.

'Arafat Calls 'Urgent' Meeting

NC2308140093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1332 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Text] Cairo, 23 Aug (MENA)—Palestinian sources in Cairo say that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has called for an urgent meeting of the PLO Executive Committee in Tunisia on Thursday [26 August]. During that meeting, the Executive Committee will discuss the Middle East peace process in light of the recent developments on the regional and international levels and the exchanges held with Arab and international sides to remove the obstacles facing the peace process. The Executive Committee will also discuss the PLO's financial difficulties and their implications on the Palestinian scene.

Al-Husayni Calls For Salvation Government

TA2408112893

[Editorial Report] Several Hebrew-language newspapers on 24 August write about the current leadership and financial crisis afflicting the PLO.

A report by Gay Bekhor, Hemi Shalev, and Nitzan Horowitz on pages A1 and A6 of Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ notes: "Faysal al-Husayni, the coordinator of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, called for the establishment of 'a Palestinian government of national salvation that will arrest the all-out collapse of the Palestinian institutions,' which he termed a 'catastrophe.' Al-Husayni was speaking at a rally held Sunday night in Hebron, and his remarks are seen as challenging PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat.

"Al-Husayni stated that when the national situation is tough and nearing disintegration governments usually form a government of national salvation to save the situation. Al-Husayni's declaration would seem to open yet another round in the power struggle between the Palestinian delegation in the territories and the PLO leaders in Tunis.

"Several members of the Palestinian delegation convened in East Jerusalem yesterday to discuss the situation in the PLO leadership and the next round of peace talks. Sources in the territories say that the leadership in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip has come to recognize that now is the time to force 'Arafat, who is in a tough spot, to change the way decisions are made and to make the entire organization more democratic."

Tel Aviv DAVAR carries a report on pages 1 and 2 by Mikhal Sela' and news agencies citing various reactions to al-Husayni's remarks.

Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokesman of the Palestinian delegation, told the paper last night: "The serious financial crisis now afflicting the PLO and public institutions in the territories, which had so far enjoyed the PLO's financial support, has further exacerbated the atmosphere of crisis." Furthermore, she said, "it is hard to conduct negotiations on a transfer of powers at a time when the institutions that are scheduled to assume this responsibility cannot support themselves."

Sa'ib 'Urayqat described as "ridiculous" reports "that one of us had called, as it were, for the establishment of a new leadership or a leadership of salvation. I am surprised; this is the first time I hear of it."

Attorney Furayh Abu-Middyan from Gaza said that the Palestinians must close ranks and rebuild all the apparatuses at this time of emergency. "The restructuring must apply to all levels—the political, financial, and social ones," he said.

Dr. Zakariya al-Agha from Gaza said: "The hardships have their ups and downs. If we make progress in the negotiations, a solution will also be found to the crisis in the Palestinian delegation. But, at this point in time, we need a lot of patience and wisdom to make decisions."

The report goes on to say that "Palestinian opposition circles are extremely critical of the decisionmaking process in the PLO leadership and demand that Yasir 'Arafat be removed from his position." Dr. Muhammad Jadallah, one of the leading figures in the territories identified with the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], said: "However, he should in no way be removed by force, but rather through an orderly decision of the Palestine National Council." In Dr. Jadallah's opinion, "the leadership in Tunis has crossed the red lines when it comes to the basic positions of the Palestinians in the negotiations." Moreover, he said, "the leaders there are out of touch with what is going on in the territories and are willing to do anything in order to openly participate in the negotiations. That is very hard to accept."

A report by Yoram Binur on page 3 of Tel Aviv HADASHOT says: "A large rally of Palestinian figures representing the entire political spectrum will be held next week in East Jerusalem. The rally will be held under the banner 'Marching Toward A Democratic Society,' and congratulatory messages from Yasir 'Arafat, George Habash, and Nayif Hawatimah will be read at the opening ceremony.

"The rally was initiated by left-wing supporters of the DFLP and the Popular Front in the territories. It will also be attended by Fatah figures, such as Faysal al-Husayni, and by representatives of Cuba and most of the foreign consulates in the city.

"Palestinian sources said this will be one of the largest rallies ever held in the territories, and that this time the emphasis will be on the population of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and their political representatives rather than on the link between the participants and their organizations abroad. In view of the crisis afflicting the PLO, Palestinian sources believe that this rally is further proof that the inhabitants of the territories are gaining strength in the Palestinian political system. According to these sources, this will be the first attempt to set up a partial substitute to the PLO in Tunis."

A report by Roni Shaqed and Smadar Peri on page 15 of Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT adds: "Sources in Jerusalem last night voiced satisfaction with the wave of resignations afflicting the PLO leadership in Tunis and the exposure of the dispute between it and the leadership in the territories."

The sources are quoted as saying: " 'Arafat's status has weakened, and the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks may become independent and help promote the negotiations in Washington."

Al-Tibi: U.S. Responsible for 'Siege'

TA2408110493 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0805 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Telephone interview with Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi, chairman of Arab Academics Association, by Qobi Meydan—live]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Meydan] Yasir 'Arafat, as a leader, and the PLO, as an organization, seem to be paying the price for a mistake made during the Gulf crisis, for the support for Saddam Husayn, in the wake of which all aid by the Gulf states was discontinued.

[Al-Tibi] A part—maybe a major part—of what is going on in the PLO today is no doubt a direct result of the Gulf war, but there is more. The PLO is in the midst of a financial crisis. All its problems, troubles, and all the officials' resignations resulted from one factor only: the financial crisis, the discontinued aid. Those who are attributing the problems to a political reason are wrong. The reason is financial only.

I would like to state here that the financial problem stems from several reasons, such as the closure. I am referring to more than the closure of the territories, which is only one element. The financial and political siege on the PLO is the main reason. The political siege is the direct result of a decision made by one man alone: U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who ordered the Gulf states to hermetically shut off the taps and to stop transferring funds both to the PLO and Palestinian institutions in the territories, including hospitals, universities, and so forth. [passage omitted]

[Meydan] How do you think 'Arafat and the PLO will resolve the present crisis?

[Al-Tibi] I am very sorry to say I do not know how the financial problem can be solved. I would like to reveal something important: The financial pressure exerted on the PLO by the United States and the Gulf states has only one objective—to secure the Palestinians' consent to an Israeli Government's proposal for the so-called early empowerment [preceding two words in English] in the spheres of health, sewage, schools, and so forth. The PLO rejected this proposal outright, because early empowerment seeks to circumvent the so-called jurisdiction [preceding word in English]. Moreover—and I am going to disclose something to you here—the United States used the European troika to tell the [Palestinian] leadership: Look, if you agree to early empowerment, we will give you $560 million immediately. Yet the PLO was unable to sell its political soul even when presented with this considerable financial enticement.

[Meydan] That is interesting. Are you saying that the United States indirectly offered the PLO half a billion dollars for more flexible stands?

[Al-Tibi] It explicitly offered it, through the European troika, in exchange for Palestinian consent to early empowerment, and the PLO, as well as a majority of the Palestinian delegation members, rejected it because it meant bypassing the issues of Jerusalem, jurisdiction, and an interim solution of the interim solution [as heard]. We are saying that an accord should be reached on the declaration of principles. I am optimistic, and I believe that if Prime Minister Rabin shows a bit more flexibility in the coming weeks, a breakthrough on the declaration of principles—not necessarily the Gaza and Jericho First issue—will be achievable. I hope that if we achieve a declaration of principles, the Americans will deign to reopen the Arab taps, which are supposed to aid the Palestinians in the occupied territories. [passage omitted]

Background on Financial Crisis

JN2408091993 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 24 Aug 93 pp 30, 25

[By Tawfiq 'Abid]

[Excerpt] The PLO is out of cash, while major Palestinian factions are very rich. Since the Gulf crisis, Palestinian officials and institutions have been spending from the Palestine National Fund—whose assets have reached the red line—and not from the funds and deposits of Palestinian organizations.

Palestinian sources in Amman estimated the deposits of Fatah at $1.5 billion; the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine at $300 to $400 million; the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine at $100 million after losing its investments in Cuba and South Yemen; and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command at $500 million.

Despite the financial stability of the Palestinian factions, they are not willing to pay a single penny to the PLO, which has not received any financial aid since the Gulf crisis.

There are different views regarding the PLO's selling of one of its investments in the United States. Some sources played down the move, deeming it an ordinary measure to cover the expenses of Palestinian institutions and pay salaries for the detainees, families of martyrs, and the obligations of the Palestine Liberation Army, especially in Iraq, whose members have not received their salaries for three months.

Arrivals from Baghdad reported that the members of the Palestine Liberation Army in Baghdad had demonstrated in front of the Palestinian embassy in Baghdad, demanding their salaries be paid to meet the pressing needs of their families.

Sources added that all cadres on the payrolls of the PLO do not receive their salaries regularly. What makes things even worse is that the Palestinian factions refuse to remit part of their funds to the Palestine National Fund. The detainees and injured of the Palestinian factions do not receive any assistance from the factions to which they belong. The PLO pays for their treatment and gives monthly salaries to detainees and families of martyrs. [passage omitted]

PLO's Sha'th on Talks With Israel, 'Arafat, Crisis

TA2008182093 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (LESHABAT supplement) in Hebrew 20 Aug 93 pp 8, 9, 23

[Interview with Dr. Nabil Sha'th, Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser, by Smadar Peri in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Peri] You meet and talk with many Israelis. I want you to state unequivocally: Is there or is there not an official dialogue between Israel and the PLO?

[Sha'th] There definitely is.

[Peri] In an earlier discussion, you stressed that you would not reveal the identity of the man with whom you are holding official talks. I want you to prove to me that it is taking place.

[Sha'th] Since I would not like to harm the dialogue, I will be very careful in proving my argument. Over the years, mainly over the past five years, I have established friendships and trusting relations with many Israelis. They all used to oppose the Likud. Today they are in the government. Naturally, it is not difficult for me to establish channels of communication, knowing that the things I tell them will reach Rabin's ears.

At the same time, there is a certain senior official with whom I meet—and I will not say where—to attempt to promote the political process, simplify complex matters or problems, and broach ideas that could extricate us from unnecessary complications.

[Peri] You say that the meetings with this Israeli are held with Rabin's full knowledge. Is Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres also being made aware of them?

[Sha'th] I believe Peres does not know. Peres has his own men who are in touch with us. With all the respect I have for Peres and his ideas, I know that productive contacts can only be made through Rabin.

[Peri] Back to the official dialogue: What does it contribute?

[Sha'th] There have been changes since Rabin came to power. There has been some progress regarding Palestinian empowerment, in the fact that we want the negotiations to succeed, and even in the sense of security, cooperation, and coordination. All of these are ideas that have been examined and discussed in the dialogue with that particular Israeli.

[Peri] Do you consider your meetings with this Israeli figure, held with the prime minister's knowledge, a message from Rabin?

[Sha'th] No. To me, these are negotiations aimed to back up and give support to the open negotiations.

[Peri] Could you give an example of how your dialogue with the senior Israeli helped the process?

[Sha'th] Yes. One day, Elyaqim Rubinstein, head of the Israeli delegation, came into the negotiating room and handed us three documents, one dealing with health, the other with education, and the third with social welfare. The documents were entitled Education in Judaea and Samaria, Health in Judaea and Samaria, and so on. This could have been a bombshell. I called "my man," and the problem was solved within half an hour.

[Peri] What other issues do you work on with him?

[Sha'th] We hold substantive discussions on texts we present to the Israelis or receive from them. Incidentally, I wish to point out that the discussions we hold are not being kept secret. He immediately briefs Rabin, and I immediately report to 'Arafat and Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas]. I report every meeting. For example, I briefed Hanan 'Ashrawi and Faysal al-Husayni on the meeting I held with Yosi Sarid four hours after it was held.

[Peri] Do al-Husayni and 'Ashrawi know about your contact?

[Sha'th] They get the reports. They know I meet a senior Israeli, but I never told them his name.

[Peri] Did you ask 'Arafat's permission before you met Sarid?

[Sha'th] Certainly, 'Arafat's and Abu-Mazin's, and I briefed them after each meeting.

[Peri] It is hard to understand the PLO decision to keep the list of Israelis you have met top secret. After all, you are seeking our recognition. Why do you not reveal the names, and thus pressure the Israeli Government?

[Sha'th] If we publish the names, it might put off certain people from meeting us.

[Peri] Likud members do not meet with you anyway. So why is it a problem to publicize that Israeli cabinet ministers, if there are any, are indeed engaged in a dialogue with you?

[Sha'th] Let us take the example of Yosi Sarid. I have met him at least 50 times at international conventions. This time, however, Rabin gave his permission. Yosi was not afraid to have people know that he had met a senior PLO member, but there are others in your country who to this day are afraid to say they met me.

For example, in my meeting with Yosi Sarid we made an agreement: He asked me not to leak the fact that a meeting had been held, and I promised not to do that. Then he told me that even if this fact came out Rabin had promised to back him up and say that he had known about it and that the meeting had not been held against his wishes.

[Peri] Did Yosi Sarid tell you about Rabin's promise in your meeting?

[Sha'th] Yes. I said OK. We agreed not to publicize the contents of the meeting, but just to report that it had been held—and I have kept my promise. [passage omitted]

[Peri] Where do you see yourself in five years?

[Sha'th] In a nonpolitical role. I would like to be the man who rebuilds Palestinian society or economy; its universities, research centers, and children's literature. Maybe I will be the minister of planning, education, or economy. I have never dreamed of being the president or prime minister of Palestine.

[Peri] And what will happen once 'Arafat disappears?

[Sha'th] We almost experienced that last year, with the plane crash. To tell you the truth, that was the scariest night I have ever lived through. I was in Stockholm. I phoned everywhere, but nobody had any accurate information. I then put the phone down, turned off all the lights, and experienced the hardest two hours of my life.

[Peri] Why was it so scary?

[Sha'th] To me, 'Arafat is somebody I know. He has his qualities and his weaknesses. I can figure him out. I appreciate his leadership and what he means to people. That is why it was so scary. I hope he lives long enough to see real peace, to see his dream about Palestine come true through peaceful means.

In any event, Faruq Qaddumi is the No. 2 man now. He is the man with the legitimacy and the official title. If 'Arafat disappeared, Qaddumi would immediately step in his shoes until the Palestinian parliament convened. Then, God only knows. It is hard to tell what would happen.

[Peri] And those of us who know Qaddumi's worldview had better start praying that 'Arafat lives long.

[Sha'th] He is going through quite some change. Being the No. 2 man is a demanding job. He has made great strides since the death of Abu-Iyad [Salah Khalaf], when suddenly he sensed the full weight of responsibility entailed in this position.

[Peri] Were you in Tunis during the marathon night meetings when Faysal al-Husayni, Hanan 'Ashrawi, and Sa'ib 'Urayqat announced their resignation? How did it go? What happened away from the public eye?

[Sha'th] People arrived frightened, but soon realized that nothing serious had happened. Hanan, Faysal, and Sa'ib were the first to arrive, and their resignation was interpreted in many ways. People were anxious that the situation might blow up, which is not exactly what we need now.

[Peri] This meeting will go down in Palestinian history as a low-profile meeting. None of those submitting their resignations spoke to the press.

[Sha'th] I know. I was staying in the same house in Tunis where Hanan 'Ashrawi was, and the telephone was disconnected....

[Peri] Who conducted the sessions?

[Sha'th] 'Arafat, all the time. The problem was solved the first night, but we still had to wait for everybody to arrive to brief them.

[Peri] What did the people from the territories actually complain about?

[Sha'th] First and foremost, about the Palestinian document that was submitted to the U.S. secretary of state in Cairo, which they were not given an opportunity to see. However, during their stay in Tunis they actually realized that a copy of the document Faysal al-Husayni received from our people in Cairo before it was handed to the Americans had been laying for five days in his desk drawer, but he decided not to show it to them until he received 'Arafat's approval.

'Arafat himself was at that time on a flight from Vietnam to Malaysia, and could not confirm to al-Husayni that the document was acceptable to him. It later transpired that a fax had been awaiting Hanan, of which she did not notify the others. In short, a mess and short-circuited communications.

[Peri] Is Faysal al-Husayni not allowed to submit documents without 'Arafat's approval?

[Sha'th] He is not allowed to submit any document without instructions from 'Arafat. Nobody has any doubt as to who the real boss is, and the leadership in the territories has never questioned or voiced the slightest doubt about it. We are used to discussing, arguing, and commenting on every issue, and at the end of the debate 'Arafat either does or does not give his approval.

[Peri] If so, those who describe them as a delegation of clerks were right.

[Sha'th] We are definitely not independent agents. We are subordinate to the government (the Executive Committee) and to the leader, who bears the responsibility. If somebody makes a mistake or a blunder 'Arafat takes the responsibility for it, not just outside but also inside the territories. 'Arafat has had to defend Faysal and Hanan against the wrath of the inhabitants of the territories many times.

[Peri] How does he do that?

[Sha'th] He does not only have direct contact with the delegation. They are not his sole representatives in the territories.

[Peri] Does he take it upon himself to restore internal peace, to reconcile all the rival camps?

[Sha'th] He must do that. He also sends messages to certain addresses and asks them to support Hanan, Haydar, or Faysal. And, they know that without 'Arafat's support they would be in trouble with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the opposition.

Despite what may look to an outsider like spontaneous outbreaks of rage, 'Arafat goes to great lengths so that the negotiations may continue. He pores over reports he receives from hundreds of sources in the territories. He reads the reports himself, and makes the overriding decision.

[Peri] Judging by your description, 'Arafat does all the work himself.

[Sha'th] At the beginning of every month he sends thousands of copies of a cassette with messages to the territories. These cassettes are played at home, at funerals, and at ceremonies. He has also adopted a new habit: He personally phones people in the territories, such as bereaved families, and tells them: I know the situation is tough and that we do not have enough money to send to you, but you must bear up. I beg you to be patient and not to disrupt the negotiations, because ultimately all of us together will see the light at the end of the tunnel.

[Peri] You paint a rosy picture of 'Arafat. Rabin claims that 'Arafat is an obstacle to progress in the negotiations, that he encumbers the members of the Palestinian delegation with his tough guidelines.

[Sha'th] 'Arafat's phone calls and fax messages to the territories are monitored by many elements. 'Arafat frequently takes advantage of this fact to talk to those listening in on him, not necessarily the people he phoned originally.

[Peri] If 'Arafat speaks to those listening in on him, why does he not take advantage of the situation to create a more positive image of himself?

[Sha'th] Because his listeners are an eclectic group: Americans, Israelis, French, Syrians, Palestinian groups, Egyptians, and Tunisians. His message will forever be one of power. He believes that he must always convey a message of power to all those listening in on him.

[Peri] Are you among those allowed to whisper in 'Arafat's ear? How many people whisper on his ear?

[Sha'th] As far as whispers go, 'Arafat is different from Rabin. Rabin trusts very few people. Very few people in your country can be considered friends of Rabin. People tell me that he does not have even one friend and does not trust anybody in the cabinet. I believe 'Arafat is much more open than Rabin. And, seeing that 'Arafat is in love with information, many people whisper on his ear—and I am one of them. The question, of course, is which of them he takes seriously.

[Peri] After the threat of the delegation members to resign was removed you declared al-Husayni, 'Ashrawi, and 'Urayqat "members of the institutions." Are they now 100-percent PLO?

[Sha'th] The PLO is not a party whose members pay dues or receive salaries. The Palestinian Charter stipulates that every Palestinian and his descendants are natural members of the PLO, and this applies to Hanan, Faysal, and all the others. Do they receive instructions from the

PLO? Definitely. Is Yasir 'Arafat their leader? Of course. Do they have to pay dues to be members of the organization? No. Do they receive a salary from the PLO? No. Their salaries come from Bi'r Zayt University.

[Peri] Your dire financial situation also came up in the meeting in Tunis. What is the budget currently at the PLO's disposal?

[Sha'th] Most of our financial resources today come from the EC and from UNRWA's [UN Relief and Work Agency] contributions to economic projects in the territories. But, these are quite small sums; less than $100 million a year which barely cover our regular expenses.

Our financial distress has become a means of pressure, a political weapon. There is an intentional policy of drying up the PLO's financial resources. The Americans conceived of this idea of creating a financial deficit in order to pressure us, particularly the leadership in the territories, on the eve of the Gulf war. This was further exacerbated by the rage of the Gulf countries and Saudi Arabia toward us after the Gulf war. Consequently, the Arab countries stopped their financial aid to the PLO.

[Peri] How much do you have nevertheless?

[Sha'th] According to a law enacted by the Arab League, every Palestinian worker in an Arab country must pay 5 percent of his salary to support the PLO. The state must deduct this tax, in addition to other taxes, and transfer it to us. This is the Palestine tax, which is supposed to cover the expenses of salaries in the territories, the refugee camps in Lebanon, orphans and widows of victims, and families of prisoners.

For many years most of our money came from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. No Palestinian could get a visa or a driver's license in those countries if he could not first prove that he had paid the Palestine tax.

[Peri] And did this stop all at once?

[Sha'th] Although Saudi Arabia and Kuwait did not stop collecting the tax after the Gulf war, they did not transfer the money to us. Saudi Arabia resumed the money transfers only last January, but instead of $5 to $7 million a month, we only get $1.5 million, which is not enough.

[Peri] What about donations from Palestinian millionaires? Could you not ask businessmen to help?

[Sha'th] They also lost a lot of money in Kuwait, at least $11 or $12 billion went down the drain there. Their contribution has gone from $15 million to $1.5 million a year.

[Peri] The PLO's support of Saddam Husayn was not just a mistake, but a tragedy for you.

[Sha'th] Many errors were committed in the portrayal of the Palestinian position. Our basic policy was not to get involved in the military struggle, to work hard to attain a solution in the framework of the Arab League and the UN, and to try to prevent a war. In the end, however, the Palestinians were portrayed in the media as leading the invasion and helping Iraqi troops. We are paying a very high price for it.

[Peri] The hottest item now is the plan to hand Gaza and Jericho over to you. It could be a precedent and a success story, but it could also prove disastrous. How will you maintain the peace?

[Sha'th] If the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers are really about to get out of Gaza and Jericho, we must do everything we can to build relations of trust with the Israeli Government and make sure that Gaza First does not turn out to be "Gaza Last."

[Peri] Can you make sure that Hamas extremists in Gaza do not infiltrate into Israel with explosives and knives?

[Sha'th] We will set up a Palestinian security force in place of the IDF soldiers, but it seems to me that we will initially require a UN assistance force. After all, we clearly do not want a renewed occupation or the Israelis to say "never" to a withdrawal from the rest of the territories. We know that the test is only ours. We must make this precedent succeed.

[Peri] What is your plan in the event of Gaza-Jericho First?

[Sha'th] If the plan is acceptable to both sides, a document of principles must be signed before Gaza-Jericho First is implemented. After all, no Palestinian will agree to see this as the end of the story. Such an agreement must also ensure that in their new status Gaza and Jericho are not disconnected from the rest of the territories.

[Peri] In other words, the plan to hand you over Gaza and Jericho is acceptable to you.

[Sha'th] As a model and as a precedent, and with the $590 million promised in U.S. aid. We met representatives of the EC a week ago, and they are now talking about sending aid immediately after an agreement in principle is signed. If all this materializes, we estimate that eventually the time will come for a normalization with the Gulf countries and other funds will start coming in.

[Peri] What else do you envision in your scenario?

[Sha'th] The moment a self-government is established in Gaza and Jericho many Palestinians, not just residents of Gaza and Jericho, will presumably rally to the cause and invest money there. I estimate that we will muster a total of $2 billion. We will become the Singapore rather than the Somalia of the Middle East.

Discusses Hope for Direct Talks

NC2308181093 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 20 Aug 93 pp 52-54, 70

[Interview with Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, by Dr. Salwa Abu-Sa'dah; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Abu-Sa'dah] It has been said that the PLO and the negotiating team have invented a crisis so that the PLO may become the direct interlocutor and principal negotiator at the negotiating table. To what extent is this true?

[Sha'th] The PLO does not invent crises. It is not in its interest to do so. We have enough Israeli, U.S., and even Arab problems to deal with. However, the PLO benefited from the storm.

[Abu-Sa'dah] What are the reasons for the PLO's granting membership to members of the Palestinians negotiating team?

[Sha'th] The principal reason is probably the wish to completely unify the Command Committee and the Follow-Up Committee of the PLO Executive Committee. Right now, Akram Haniyah and I are the only two members on both committees. I serve as chairman of the Command Committee, and Haniyah is my deputy. We were afraid of taking this measure in the past because we did not want those members to be excluded from the delegation or even deported from the homeland, because Shamir made such threats in the past. Now, the situation is different. This is why the PLO took this political and organizational step.

[Abu-Sa'dah] Is there a political reason for this move, apart from the desire to streamline organizational matters?

[Sha'th] The step probably aims to gauge the extent of Israel's seriousness about changing its approach toward the PLO. Therefore, I think that Israel's recognition of that move provides further evidence of their increasing willingness to recognize the PLO. In this sense, the move has been useful.

[Abu-Sa'dah] But the Likud was fast to denounce the [Israeli] Government's acceptance to continue negotiations with the delegation's members after they acquired PLO membership. What do you say to that?

[Sha'th] We know the Likud's position, but it is now the opposition, not the government.

[Abu-Sa'dah] How about the recent meetings between PLO members and Israeli officials, the most recent of which was your meeting with Israeli Environment Minister Sarid in Cairo?

[Sha'th] For me, Israel's recognition of the PLO is equivalent to de Klerk's recognition of the African National Congress and France's recognition of the Algerian Liberation Front. Recognition of the PLO is for us tantamount to recognizing the unity of the Palestinian people inside and outside the homeland. It means the end of the longstanding Israeli and U.S. attempt to separate the Palestinians inside the homeland from those living outside it and reduce the Palestinian issue to one of solving the problem of the Palestinians living in the homeland. Therefore, this step is an important one. Israel is getting closer to this step.

[Abu-Sa'dah] There have been recent reports that you may join the negotiating team. How true were these reports?

[Sha'th] I think that it is a possibility. But even if I were to join the delegation officially, this step would be smaller than the recognition of the PLO and the willingness to hold direct negotiations with the PLO as a leadership. My meeting with Israeli Environment Minister Sarid and Rabin's acknowledgement of the meeting—which I did not disclose until Rabin did—are all steps toward that recognition.

[Abu-Sa'dah] Is this issue [of Israel's recognizing the PLO] subject to exchanges between you and the U.S. side aiming to facilitate such a move?

[Sha'th] On the contrary. I think that the Americans are against this step. The Americans do not want Israel to recognize the PLO right now, because this will put heavy pressure on them to resume their dialogue with the PLO. The Americans do not want to this to happen because they want to continue pressuring the PLO during the current negotiations. [passage omitted]

[Abu-Sa'dah] You spoke about the idea of Gaza and Jericho. Would such a measure lead to future steps toward Israel's withdrawal from the rest of the Arab occupied territories? How does Israel view this idea?

[Sha'th] The idea of Gaza and Jericho is equivalent to the disengagement that took place on the Egyptian and Syrian fronts following the 1973 war. Disengagement involves a full withdrawal of the Israeli forces, a deployment of Palestinian forces, and a possible presence of UN forces, but with full Palestinian sovereignty in place in Gaza and Jericho. This sovereignty does not lead to the declaration of a republic or a state or to any final position, because we do not want Gaza and Jericho to represent the final withdrawal. We want them to be the sites of the first withdrawal. We do not want to divide the occupied land. We want to have a disengagement between us and the Israelis. We want unity to remain in full between Gaza and Jericho, on one hand, and the rest of the West Bank and Jerusalem, on the other.

Therefore, the disengagement in Gaza and Jericho should coincide with the measures to begin establishing a transitional Palestinian Government in the rest of the occupied territories. The disengagement should also lead to negotiations on the final position with a view to continuing the Israeli withdrawal of all the occupied Palestinian land. This is the start of a process that should end in a complete Israeli withdrawal and the achievement of independence for the entire homeland. [passage omitted]

'Secret Contacts' on Joint Cooperation Reported

TA2308180193 Jerusalem AL-MANAR in Arabic 23 Aug 93 p 1

[Text] AL-MANAR has learned from high-level diplomatic sources that secret contacts between Israel and the Jordanian and Palestinian sides, sponsored by the United States, are on the verge of an agreement on arrangements for a future solution and the bases for joint cooperation toward peace and stability.

Those sources say that Palestinian forces from the Palestine Liberation Army, mainly made up from the 'Ayn Jalut units, are ready to enter the Gaza Strip. They will be joined by several hundred Palestinian youths trained in police duty and who have finished police courses in some Arab and European countries. Moreover, a group of administrative employees, who are now in Cairo, are getting ready to return to the Gaza Strip. All these groups are under the command of Major General 'Abdallah al-Fara.

In a related development, the Jordanian-Palestinian security and development committees are to convene this week. They will discuss the issue of the presence of Jordanian police forces, with Palestinian cooperation, in Jericho in the first stage. They will also discuss arrangements for border posts.

It has been learned that a Japanese company will soon begin construction of a large tunnel between Gaza and the West Bank in the direction of Hebron. An agreement to this effect has been signed with the Japanese company. Moreover, international highways stipulated in the clauses of the future solution will also be constructed. In addition, an agreement has been signed to construct a railroad linking Tel Aviv, Amman, Riyadh, and other cities in the Middle East. Israel is getting ready to set up some military bases as well as observation posts, in accordance with its security requirements, in some West Bank areas.

At the same time, consultations are continuing in terms of selecting and expanding the airport that will be used by the residents of the occupied territories.

These developments come in the wake of the success of contacts between the Palestinian and Jordanian sides over the Gaza-Jericho option. Those contacts have reached an advanced stage and an agreement is on the verge of being signed.

Delegation on King Husayn's Remarks, Resignations

JN2308172193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1430 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Report by reporter Sa'id Mu'addi carried within the "With the Events" feature—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Members of the Palestinian negotiating team held a coordination meeting today, on the eve of the upcoming round of the Arab-Israeli peace talks, to discuss their next steps. This meeting is part of the framework of consultations designed to coordinate positions and crystallize a Palestinian stand toward current issues. This meeting is of particular importance since it was held on the eve of the coordination meeting of the Arab foreign ministers due to convene in Beirut and on the eve of the upcoming round of the Washington talks. Regarding the objective of the meeting held today, Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks, said:

"This meeting was meant to achieve follow-up work. Discussion on some issues related to the delegation's work, the delegation's work mechanism, and preparations for the upcoming round of talks were not finished in the previous meeting. These issues were discussed in today's meeting, in addition to preparations for meetings with the Tunis-based leadership and also for the upcoming round of talks were also debated."

Today's meeting was overshadowed by the confusion plaguing the PLO ranks in the aftermath of a string of resignations from the PLO Executive Committee. Poet Mahmud Darwish has tendered his resignation from the PLO Executive Committee,and Shafiq al-Hut suspended his PLO Executive Committee membership to protest the PLO policy. Al-Hut held the PLO leadership responsible for the political, financial, and organizational crises plaguing the PLO.

On this issue, Dr. 'Ashrawi said the following:

"Of course, each resignation is unique and has its own reasons. We have always known Mahmud Darwish as a poet, writer, and educated person. As such, he finds it difficult to reconcile his role as a literary landmark in Palestinian literature with his role as a politician. Given these difficult circumstances, we can understand the reasons that prompted him to tender his resignation from the PLO Executive Committee. In case his resignation is endorsed, I would like to say that his departure will be a loss and that he will leave a noticeable vacuum within the Palestinian leadership. As regards the resignation of Mr. Shafiq al-Hut, it goes without saying that he has voiced some remarks and complaints that must be addressed. It may be healthy to take all these remarks into account. However, we must remember that this phase is a delicate one. Consequently, this phase must be handled responsibly within the PLO framework so that the concerted efforts of all parties may help us cope with this difficult situation."

Commenting on statements made by King Husayn today to the effect that the absence of Jordanian-Palestinian coordination on any partial withdrawal from the territories renders the outcome of such withdrawal questionable, Dr. 'Ashrawi said: "We would like to say that there cannot be a deliberate decision or intention to keep the Jordanian side uninformed about any developments, or not to coordinate with the Jordanians. However, this partial withdrawal idea is still under consideration within Palestinian quarters. It has not been finalized yet. I am sure that once firm decisions are made on this idea, and once details of this idea are drawn up, there will be direct and comprehensive coordination on it."

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said in Helsinki yesterday that Israel is very close to a peace agreement with the Palestinians.

Commenting on these statements, Dr. 'Ashrawi said: "As a matter of fact, I cannot see the reasons or grounds that prompted him to demonstrate such optimism. We believe that the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations are still deadlocked, particularly with respect to substantive issues, such as territorial jurisdiction and Jerusalem. There cannot be any conceivable way to circumvent these issues. These are the substantive issues that will decide the fate of the overall peace process. Therefore, I do not share the foreign minister's optimism in this regard. Additionally, I believe that it is high time that we worked intensively to address, rather than evade difficult issues."

When queried about the next phase, and the departure of Palestinian peace delegates for Tunis, and then for Washington to take part in the upcoming round of talks, the spokeswoman for the Palestinian negotiating team said: "No dates have been set for the delegates' departure yet. However, their departure may take place toward the end of this week."

Team Divided Over Gaza-Jericho Issue

JN2308115993 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 23 Aug 93 p 23

[Text] New developments could take place soon in the wake of the resignation of Palestinian poet Mahmud Darwish from the PLO Executive Committee and the different reactions the resignation has sparked in PLO institutions and other PLO Executive Committee members.

'Abd-al-Rahim Malluh, PLO Executive Committee member, told AL- RA'Y that Darwish's resignation reflects an intense crisis afflicting the Palestinian leadership and follows a severe political crisis facing the negotiating process, especially after the Palestinian reply to the U.S. draft declaration of principles.

Malluh said the resignation of Mahmud Darwish was preceded by somewhat similar attitudes by Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi prior to the ninth round and during the 10th round, when he called for reforms in the Palestinian leadership and urged a collective leadership. The resignation reminds us of the attitude of others, including Faysal al-Husayni, Sa'ib 'Urayqat, and Hanan 'Ashrawi, he said.

Malluh, who is also a member of the Political Bureau of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, added that things will not stop at this point. The Tunis meeting did not solve the problem. All it did was bypass the problem by putting forward hypothetical formulas for some members of the delegation.

Answering a question, Malluh said President 'Arafat's statement to the Voice of Lebanon about postponing negotiation over Jerusalem serves to peddle the U.S.-Israeli plan, divides the question of withdrawal, and brushes aside the decision of legitimate Palestinian institutions that reject dividing the solution and affirming the precedence of Jerusalem and other issues.

On the Gaza-Jericho First plan, Malluh said it promotes a division of the solution and facilitates a U.S.-Israeli solution. We are very worried that things will stop at the borders of Gaza. The same thing goes for the interim period, because we are afraid it will be the end. Therefore, we should abandon private disputes. Some people in the negotiating team want Gaza first for considerations of their own; others want to have the interim period, also for their own considerations. What is required, first, is Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem, and giving the Palestinian people their right to self-determination.

'Abd-al-Shafi Sees No Progress in Peace Talks

AU2308124093 Vienna Oesterreich Eins Radio Network in German 1000 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Armin Wolf report on interview with Dr. Hadyar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace talks, in Vienna; date not given—recorded; 'Abd-al-Shafi statements in English with superimposed German translation]

[Text] [Announcer] Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi is currently in Vienna for a UN conference. In an ORF interview, he threatened the Palestinians' withdrawal from the peace process. Armin Wolf interviewed the Palestinian chief negotiator.

[Begin recording] [Wolf] After almost two years of peace negotiations with Israel, Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi's balance is short and bitter:

['Abd-al-Shafi] There has been no advancement at all. We have been locked all along.

[Wolf] The Palestinian chief negotiator is disappointed with the Social Democratic Government in Israel. It had been generally expected that new Prime Minister Rabin would be more compromising than his conservative predecessor Shamir.

['Abd-al-Shafi] I think it turned out to be a false assumption. We were hoping that it would be like this, but it is not. The only difference to Shamir is that, I believe, this government wants to achieve an agreement. But it only wants a settlement on its own terms.

[Wolf] The head of the Palestinian delegation is also disappointed with the U.S. Administration. As the host of the peace negotiations, it has not remained neutral, but has supported Israel, he says.

Commenting on the consequences of the deadlock in the talks, Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi says:

['Abd-al-Shafi] Palestinian support for the peace process has diminished very much, basically, because no progress is made in the negotiations and because Israel apparently does not take the peace process seriously and continues to build settlements in the occupied territories, and because the oppression of the people there continues. Therefore, the Palestinians are frustrated and the peace process has lost its credibility.

[Wolf] If there is not a change soon, the Palestinians will withdraw from the peace process for the time being, Haydar 'Abd-al- Shafi threatens in the ORF interview.

['Abd-al-Shafi] I think this coming round is very crucial. If there is, again, no progress, something should happen. We will probably suspend our participation in the peace process.

[Wolf] That is, until Israel makes the negotiations credible again by making concrete offers, the PLO chief delegate says.

The latest controversy between prominent representatives of his delegation and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has been settled, Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi says. What remains f[]r him is the call for the democratization of the PLO. The decision-making process must not depend on a single person, the prominent Palestinian leader says, openly alluding to Yasir 'Arafat.

How much support does 'Arafat still have in the occupied territories, in his opinion?

['Abd-al-Shafi] The majority of the Palestinians support the PLO. This is not a question of personalities, it is a question of a movement. If Yasir 'Arafat disappears from the picture, the PLO will still be supported.

[Wolf] This is a statement by a prominent Palestinian leader that would have been inconceivable a few years ago. [end recording]

States Demands for Settlement

AU2408074693 Vienna ORF Television Network in German 2021 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Studio interview with Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, chief negotiator of the Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace talks, by Robert Hochner; Al-Shafi answers in English, with superimposed German translation—live]

[Text] [Hochner] Israel has offered Jericho and the Gaza Strip to the Palestinians. Would you consider this an initial step, something that you could accept?

['Abd-al-Shafi] No, I do not think we can accept such an option. We are not dealing with the Gaza Strip alone. All occupied territories are at issue, and Gaza certainly does not have any special problem that we can deal with it seperately. In the context of an overall agreement on the occupied territories, we are also ready to discuss the Gaza problem and to carry out the agreement there, too, but not the Gaza Strip alone.

[Hochner] There have been reports in your delegation, recently, on possible resignations. How is the mood between the PLO and the Palestinians in Israel? Could it be that internal differences obstruct the negotiations?

['Abd-al-Shafi] There are no serious differences between the PLO and the Palestinians in the occupied territories. Of course, there may be differences of opinion, but there are no problems. We have consultations, and we coordinate our opinions. So there is nothing serious.

[Hochner] If Israel eventually gives you autonomy in the occupied territories some day, does this mean that you will have control over territories where the fundamentalists, the Hamas, are very strong? Do you see this as a danger for a future Palestinian state?

['Abd-al-Shafi] No, not at all. If we get control over the occupied territories, we will carry out our business in a democratic way, and I think the majority of the Palestinians will continue to vote for the PLO. I do not think the Hamas will be in a position to get a majority.

[Hochner] Jerusalem is certainly one of the decisive points of the autonomy negotiations. Can you conceive of accepting autonomy from Israel without East Jerusalem, which Israel is by no means ready to give up?

['Abd-al-Shafi] Absolutely not. East Jerusalem is occupied territory. According to the UN resolutions, according to Resolution 242, the basis of the negotiations, it is occupied territory. The annexation of Jerusalem by Israel was condemned by the UN Security Council in several resolutions. We cannot accept a solution without Jerusalem.

[Hochner] One last question. The PLO, meaning Yasir 'Arafat, sided with Iraq in the Gulf war, and that harmed the PLO considerably. The PLO does not receive financial aid from the Gulf states any more. Does this loss of prestige for the PLO harm the Palestinians in Israel, and does it give you trouble in the negotiations?

['Abd-al-Shafi] Well, the question of the Palestinian position on the past Gulf problem has been somewhat distorted. 'Arafat could not clearly distance himself from Saddam Husayn. It was the direct intervention of the United States in the Gulf that led to the Palestinians showing sympathy for Iraq, which was militarily threatened by the United States. Of course, we were against the occupation of Kuwait.

[Hochner] Mr. 'Abd-al-Shafi, thank you very much for being with us in the studio.

['Abd-al-Shafi] Thank you.

PLO Names Leaders of Joint Committees With Jordan

JN2308141593 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 23 Aug 93 p 29

[By 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[Excerpt] The Palestinian side has appointed its teams to the six Jordanian-Palestinian committees formed by the Jordanian-Palestinian Higher Committee on 14 July. Official Palestinian sources told AL-RA'Y that each team will be led by a PLO Executive Committee member as follows:

Dr. Samir Ghawshah will lead the Refugees Committee. Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi will lead the Jerusalem and Water Committees. Yasir 'Amr will lead the Security and Border Committee. Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh will lead the Information and Culture Committee. Sulayman al-Najjab will lead the Economic Committee.

The Palestinian sources added that these teams will arrive [in Amman] from Tunisia and the occupied territories today. The meetings with the Jordanian side will begin in the next few days. [passage omitted]

Deportees on Israel's Influence on PLO, Delegation

NC2408075993 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] Spokesman for the Palestinian deportees 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi has said that suspending the discussion of the Jerusalem issue for three years means giving up Jerusalem.

Commenting on the resignations of Mahmud Darwish and PLO representative in Lebanon Shafiq al-Hut from the PLO Executive Committee, al-Rantisi said: I believe that some PLO members have drawn red lines for themselves that they cannot step over and that some have gone beyond all the red lines. He noted that surrendering Jerusalem is extremely dangerous.

'Abdallah al-Shami, member of the Islamic Jihad Organization, spoke to the Voice of the Oppressed Radio about the PLO's political performance. He said:

[Begin recording] Anyone who observes the political role and the performance of the PLO and [? the Palestinian delegation] discovers that their actions are prompted by Israeli decisions. The delegation has no pressure papers and no force to impose its stands or retrieve its rights.

We noticed from the beginning that Israel has imposed conditions for negotiations on all the region's negotiators. It was Israel who decided that the Palestinian side would enter the negotiations despite Israel enacting a settlement process, neutralizing Jerusalem, violating Palestinian human rights, setting up numerous prisons, and imposing a blockade on the Palestinian people. At the beginning of each round of negotiations Israel has created an issue so that the Palestinian delegation would participate in the talks to deal with this fabricated issue and forget the substance of the problem it discussed previously.

The whole Palestinian performance was regrettably prompted by an Israeli decision. Even the recent U.S paper presented to the Palestinian delegation was an Israeli paper that the Palestinian delegation was forced to accept without amendment. The Palestinian delegation retracted its stand that Jerusalem is not negotiable and became convinced by and satisfied with the U.S. paper presented in the last round. All this reveals that the Palestinian delegation or the 'Arafat-led PLO have no power or pressure papers. They have no alternative but to say yes to whatever is proposed and dictated them. [end recording]

Schism in Islamic Jihad Movement Leadership Reported

JN2108172693 Amman SHIHAN in Arabic 21-27 Aug 93 p 13

[Text] SHIHAN has learned from sources close to the Islamic Jihad Movement [IJM] that the IJM, led in Palestine by Fathi al-Shaqaqi, has been hit by a split. According to the sources, dissent against al-Shaqaqi was led by the following: Ibrahim Hulaywah—code named Tal'at—officer in charge of the Algerian theater; Muhammad Abu-Samrah, al-Shaqaqi's secretary for 10 years and the man in charge of the Lebanese and Syrian theater; Taysir [not further identified], who is responsible for the European and American theaters and a prominent member of the IJM's shura council in Palestine; Salih 'Abd-al-'Al, officer in charge of foreign relations and liaison with other movements and parties; Shyakh Sayyid Barakah—nicknamed prince of the movement—the most senior member on the shura council. The five are also in charge of the so-called lines inside the Gaza Strip. They have issued a five-page statemnet explaining the reasons behind the shura council's dismissal of Fathi al-Shaqaqi as the IJM's secretary general. Cited in the statement were his abuse of authority, monopoly of decisions affecting money and other matters, actions inconsistent with the movement's principles, and abandonment of comrades in trying times, as he did when the Algerian Government deported movement members.

The latest reports the sources have from Lebanon indicate that the IJM's shura council members in Palestine have assigned Muhammad Abu-Samrah, the movement's secretary, the task of seeing the movement's prince, Shaykh As'ad Bayyud al-Tamimi in Amman, and informing him of the al-Shaqaqi dismissal decision and the circumstances surrounding it. Abu-Samrah made it clear to al-Tamimi that only seven people remain with al-Shaqaqi. Our ferocious battle with al-Shaqaqi, he further intimates to al-Tamimi, will not stop before he is neutralized completely. Abu-Samrah goes on to inform al-Tamimi that it had been decided to merge the IJM movement in Jerusalem and Palestine under the latter's command, thus reverting to the way things stood when he launched the movement in 1980.

Ahmad Muhanna, who led Hizballah in Palestine, the sources add, has consented to return to the IJM's fold and wind down the Hizballah organization.

The shura council, according to the same sources, has asked that a meeting be set up outside Jordan with Shaykh al-Tamimi to work out details.

Group Claims Murder of Israeli Guard

NC2208170293 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 22 Aug 93

[Text] The Islamic Jihad in Palestine said it has decided to escalate its operations against Israel, particularly against the settlers and military government centers. The organization warned Israel against attacking the Palestinian camps in Lebanon or Lebanese civilians, affirming that it will respond immediately by shelling the northern settlements, and specifically Nahariyya.

In a statement issued in Beirut, the Islamic Jihad in Palestine also announced its responsibility for the slaying of an Israeli guard last Friday [20 August] in a settlement in the West Bank, east of Jerusalem. The organization said it shot the settler dead to avenge the victims who fell during the Israeli operation against southern Lebanon the last week of July.

Israel Reportedly To Facilitate Bridge Procedures

JN2208120593 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 22 Aug 93 pp 1, 28

[By Hamdan al-Hajj]

[Text] Amman—People arriving from the occupied Arab territories have said that the Israeli occupation authorities intend to make many changes designed to facilitate citizens' movement across the bridges. Persons over the age of 50 will be allowed to cross the King Husayn Bridge after simply showing their identity cards. They will not have to obtain exit permits or pay departure fees.

These recent arrivals told AL-DUSTUR that the Israeli authorities are also considering a reduction in permit fees for those under 50; fees will be 60 shekels or the equivalent of 15 dinars. Before the end of the year, these authorities also intend to extend the duty hours on the bridges to 2300. This is part of Israeli goodwill gestures toward Palestinians before the beginning of 11th round of negotiations, scheduled for 31 August.

Since April, the Israeli occupation authorities have reduced the exit permit fees for those departing the occupied Arab territories to one-third the original charge. They are now 30 dinars per permit. Permit fees were previously 120 [figure as published] dinars. The authorities, however, retained existing visitor permit fees.

Approximately two weeks ago, the Israeli authorities canceled the restrictions on youths aged 26 to 36 and allowed them to depart the occupied Arab territories without stipulating that they should not return home before nine months. These restrictions were imposed after the outbreak of the intifadah.

For their part, sources in the bridges security detachments told AL-DUSTUR that there has been a remarkable increase in the number of arrivals in the Kingdom as a result of these changes and also in the wake of the announced results of the general secondary examinations in the occupied West Bank. Many students who passed this examination wish to enter local, Arab, or foreign universities. Some 5,000 people arrive in the Kingdom daily, the sources noted. This requires additional efforts by the bridges security detachments. Added to this is the continued and unprecedented overcrowding of people returning to the occupied Arab territories. Matters, however, are conducted in an orderly and convenient manner, the sources added.

Israel To Grant Permanent Residency to 6,000

TA2208125193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 22 Aug 93

[Text] Six thousand relatives of Arab residents of the territories who came here between 1990 and 1992 with temporary permits will receive permanent residency in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. This is part of the new policy for the territories that was developed during the last round of peace talks two months ago.

The information on this emerged in a reply to a petition to the High Court by the state prosecution. It was answering a request to allow reunification of dozens of Arab families living in the territories.

The new policy also makes it clear that 2,000 people a year will receive permanent status. This is twice the quota approved until now.

Algeria

'Arafat: PLO Accepts 2-Year Transitional Phase

JN2408063093 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1600 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Text] Brother leader President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] met in Algeria with Ali Kafi, chairman of the Higher State Council.

They reviewed the situation in the occupied Palestinian territories and the developments in the Middle East peace process, in addition to other Arab and international issues of common interest.

The Palestinian News Agency, WAFA, reported that brother leader President Abu-'Ammar briefed Chairman Ali Kafi on an Israeli proposal to give Palestinians in some of the occupied territories some authority. He stressed that the PLO had rejected this proposal in a memorandum submitted to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and to the Israeli delegation to the peace talks.

Brother leader Abu-'Ammar said the PLO accepted a solution based on a two-year transitional phase that ensures for the Palestinian people their full independence and freedom to set up their state.

Radio Commentary Discusses Formation of New Government

LD2208120593 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 22 Aug 93

[Text] The government to be headed by Mr. Redha Malek will be the fifth since 1988. In other words, this is an average of a government every year. In comparison with the obvious stability of the government in the 1970's and the 1980's, some people, including those who observe with good intentions and those who comment and interpret with bad intentions, look on these changes in the government as unusual and possibly unhealthy. If we look back, however, it is clear that from the middle of the 1980's Algeria began to lose its balance and lost it completely, or almost lost it in 1988.

There is no need to clarify at length the reasons for the loss of balance. Briefly, it was an economic crisis compounded by a political crisis, in addition to the cultural, social, and moral consequences of economic and political phenomena. Under the pressures resulting from local and international tensions and convulsions in numerous orientations, the country continued to oscillate between draft solutions that were different and sometimes contradictory. There are forces of attraction toward swift and immediate change that are confronted by other forces that reject change completely. There is another stance that endorses change and agrees to it, but stresses the need for caution, rejects overhastiness, and calls for a gradual transition.

The same analysis applies to the political and economic fields. All the social and political parties and most groups in society agree that political and economic reforms are inevitable, but question how fast and in what manner these should occur. The governments that followed one other since 1988 made proposals and acted at different speeds and in diverse ways. There is no doubt that every government acted in accordance with the outcome of the relations of power between the various pressures. The appointment of each of the governments was also the result of the outcome of opposing relations of power in the internal arena and under international circumstances.

Sometimes the force of change was strong and the move toward reform was swift; at other times we had to comply with the force of patience and slowness.

What is important today is that we have a new government that will find at its disposal the experience of previous governments, which can be added to its own program and own ideas. It is expected that from this the government will deduce the most effective speed for the current stage. Some questions remain: Will Mr. Redha Malek's government remain after the launching of the expected transitional stage, and will it be responsive to political orientations?

Abdessalam States Hope for Civil Accord

LD2108210393 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 21 Aug 93

[Text of letter to Ali Kafi, chairman of the Algerian Higher State Council, by former Algerian Prime Minister Belaid Abdessalam]

[Text] Mr. President, you honored me at the beginning of July 1992 with the task of forming and leading our country's government, and the day before yesterday you informed me of the end of this task. I place this decision on record, expressing my gratitude for the trust you placed in me by appointing me to this task. Succession of government is considered an ordinary base in the life of countries, and Algeria's higher interest in these difficult conditions our country is experiencing now remains inevitable and imposes itself upon each one of us. Therefore, I leave my tasks as head of the government and minister of economy, wishing the Higher State Council all the success in the difficult task which it shoulders in order to regain the national accord and to lift the country on democratic foundations—modern and healthy. I wish with all my heart that our people regain the civilian peace and that the state regain its power and credibility in full, both internally and abroad, and that our nation successfully overcome the various calamities that it faces in these circumstances. Please accept my highest regards, Mr. President.

Former Premier Merbah Buried in 'Martyrs Square'

NC2308174793 Paris AFP in English 1635 GMT 23 Aug 93

[By Hassen Zenati]

[Text] Algiers, Aug 23 (AFP)—Some 2,000 people attended the funeral Monday [23 February] of assassinated former Algerian prime minister Kasdi Merbah, as one of the five suspects in the killing was reportedly arrested.

Merbah was buried in "martyrs square" in the national cemetery of El-Alia where some of the most famous members of the Algerian national movement have been laid to rest.

But as the funeral cortege set off from Merbah's family home his widow branded former President Chadli Bendjedid a "murderer".

Her head shrouded in a white shawl as a sign of mourning, Merbah's widow, Fatima, briefly addressed the crowds waiting outside her home in El Baier.

She said that Bendjedid was responsible for the deaths of all intellectuals and journalists, accusing him of having led Algeria into its current chaos.

Meanwhile the independent daily EL WATAN reported Monday that a suspect wounded in Saturday's shootout had been arrested. No other details were given, although the paper reported that Merbah had fired back at his assailants before dying.

Merbah and four others died when five gunmen sprayed their two cars with bullets near the ex-premier's summer home on the outskirts of Algiers, family members said.

Among the mourners at the funeral were Prime Minister designate Redha Malek, new Defence Minister General Lamine Zeroual and former President Ahmed Ben Bella.

Merbah, 55, was buried along with the four other victims who died in the bloody attack, his son, Hakim, 25, his brother, Abdelazziz, 52, and his driver and bodyguard.

No one has claimed responsibility for the ambush although authorities have blamed Moslem militants who, since January 1992, have waged a rebellion against the military-backed government after it canceled elections that the now-banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was poised to win.

The victims' coffins were on view at Merbah's home throughout the morning and there were tight security measures both at the house, along the route and at the cemetery, some 15 kilometres southwest of the capital. The more prominent mourners were surrounded by bodyguards.

There was a short speech by one of the members of Merbah's party the Algerian Movement for Justice and Development (MAJD), which advocates a moderate-Islamic rule.

Members of the ruling High State Council, or collegiate presidency, have strongly condemned Merbah's assassination and vowed to pursue "a relentless fight" against what they called "terrorist barbarity."

The government has also pledged to continue a crackdown against Moslem extremists with new premier Malek said to be in favour of a tough measures against militants.

Merbah was premier in 1988-89 and the country's security police chief from 1962 to 1979.

His assassination has also revived a controversy between the country's political parties, some of which advocate negotiating with the militants and others which favour force to crush the fundamentalist movement.

On Monday, the Islamic Renaissance Movement (MRI) of Sheikh Abadallah Djaballah condemned Merbah's killing, saying in a communique that it amounted to "a dangerous sign that blind terrorism was taking hold."

Meanwhile in the latest violence two policemen, two local leaders and an armed fundamentalist died in attacks on Sunday in Algiers, Blida and Jilel, Algerian security services said Monday.

* Madani On Support for Dialogue With Leadership

93P50272A London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Aug 93 p 1

[Article by Qusayy Salih al-Darwish]

[Text] Paris—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned from informed sources that the president of the Algerian observation committee for human rights, Abderrazak Bara, met recently with Abassi Madani in jail. According to these sources, Bara listened to Abassi Madani's complaints concerning some of the treatment he and his companions have received in jail. Conversation turned to the political situation, at which point Madani, in answering a question about his position on the dialogue between political and government forces, said that he welcomed this dialogue.

However, he indicated that he and members of the leadership jailed with him have no control over the armed groups that are undertaking acts of violence and assassinations. Nevertheless, he expressed his conviction that the dialogue between the government and the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] leadership would have a positive effect on the security situation and lessen the severity of the prevailing tension.

The importance of this meeting and the conversation that took place stems from the fact that the Algerian observation committee for human rights is an agency subject to the government and that its president is not merely an ordinary lawyer, rather he is known for his strong ties to influential quarters in government. Despite Abderrazak Bara's assertion that his visit came in response to an urgent request from Madani's sons, who expressed concern about their father's situation, it would have been impossible for Abderrazak Bara's initiative to be undertaken without the concurrence of specific parties at the top.

In confirmation of this, Bara wrote a report immediately following this meeting and forwarded a copy to the HSC [Higher State Council] and another copy to the military leadership.

In this report, according to a source close to Abderrazak Bara, Bara called on the government to open the dialogue with the FIS leadership, especially with Abassi Madani, affirming the latter's readiness to enter into such a dialogue.

Acccording to this same source, members of the HSC, with the exception of Khaled Nezzar, who was on vacation, did not appear enthusiastic about this report, contrary to the military leadership who viewed it as a positive sign.

Authorities overseeing this report conclude that it may be the starting point for a future dialogue that could be advanced by the government following completion of the expected changes in state organizations and government. These changes could take place during the coming days or weeks.

In other news, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that President Abdessalam Belaid received former President Ahmed Ben Bella recently to discuss the political situation. Belaid told Ben Bella that he had thought about it and spoke of it in a speech he gave before the Sons of Martyrs. He added that Ben Bella must meet with other parties and in particular General Nezzar, who is still runnning the country. He expressed his readiness to arrange a meeting between Ben Bella and General Khaled Nezzar.

Nation Establishes Diplomatic Relations With Eritrea

LD2308203493 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Text] Algeria and Eritrea have decided to set up diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level. A Foreign Ministry statement says that Algeria and Eritrea, wishing to consolidate and strengthen the ties of friendship and brotherhood between the two peoples, and eager to lay down the bases of a fruitful cooperation between the two countries in accordance with the principles of international law and the UN charter, have decided to establish diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level beginning today.

Egypt

Trial of Army General's Attackers Begins in Cairo

NC2308163693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1122 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Text] Cairo, 23 Aug (MENA)—Amid strict security measures, the Higher Military Court this morning held its first hearing in the case involving the terrorist attack [against an army general] in Zinhum [on 18 July].

Charges have been brought against eight men in the case, but four of these are still at large. The other four, Mahmud Salah Fahmi, Mustafa 'Awni Zaki, Kahlawi Sabir 'Abd-al-'Alim, and Muhammad Ramadan Zaki, were in the dock. The four at-large defendants are: 'Irfan Muhammad Hasan al-Khuli, 'Ali Ahmad Muhammad Farhan, Yasir 'Abbas Sulayman, and Ayman 'Udah Muhammad 'Udah.

Defense lawyers have demanded access to the investigation files. Defendants Mustafa 'Awni Zaki and Mahmud Salah Fahmi have been referred for examination by a committee of physicians from Cairo and 'Ayn Shams Universities to determine the cause of their injuries.

The military prosecutor said that the case was a popular epic, showing public support for the police effort to arrest the suspects and combat terror.

The prosecutor said that the defendants had already been examined by forensics experts, who decided their injuries were received during their arrest from members of the public at the scene of the incident in Zinhum.

The court's president ordered defendants Mustafa 'Awn and Mahmud Salah to approach the bench and discussed their injuries with them. The president of the court said that in his opinion the injuries are old and have healed. However, he added, the defendants will be submitted to further medical examination upon the request of the defense.

Following the hearing, which lasted for approximately one hour, the court's president issued a decision banning publication of reports on the case and setting the date for the next hearing on 29 August. The defendants will be informed of the charges against them in the next hearing, the court's president said.

Further on Trial

NC2308165093 Paris AFP in English 1524 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Text] Cairo, Aug 23 (AFP)—The trial of eight Islamic militants accused of an attack in the Egyptian capital last month in which four people died opened Monday [23 August] under tight security before a military court here, court sources said.

The July 18 attack in the working class neighborhood of Zinhum was aimed against the head of Cairo's military courts, General Ahmad 'Abdallah, who passed 13 death sentences against Muslim fundamentalists in April and May.

But the assailants fired by mistake on another general, who was unharmed. Four other people were killed in the shoot-out: a police officer, a passerby, and two of the attackers.

Defense lawyers charged in the opening session that two of their clients, Mustafa 'Awni and Mahmud Salah, had been tortured in custody and asked that they be examined by the judges.

The presiding judge accepted the request but insisted the marks were "old wounds." The court set Sunday for its next session, which it said would be held behind closed doors.

All eight fundamentalists, including four on the run, are accused of "membership in an illegal organization aimed at undermining the constitution and laws," the official MENA news agency reported.

The suspects, also charged with illegal possession of arms and explosives, face a possible death penalty. Most of them are from the Dayrut region of southern Egypt, a fundamentalist stronghold.

Militants Kill Copt Accused of Cairo Bombings

NC2408091393 Paris AFP in English 0838 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] Cairo, Aug 24 (AFP)—Muslim militants have shot dead a mentally ill Coptic Christian they accused of a bomb attack in Cairo that killed seven people, police said Tuesday [24 August].

Gunmen shot dead Khalid Yahya Theophiles, a 20-year-old agronomy student, in a busy street in Abnub near Asyut in southern Egypt on Monday evening.

Police blamed the outlawed al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah, which had accused Theophiles of carrying out a car-bomb attack in central Cairo on May 21 that killed seven people and wounded 20.

The bombing was never claimed, but police suspected Muslim militants.

Theophiles was arrested at the scene along with other suspects and said he had carried out the attack, but investigators ruled him out when they realised he was mentally ill and in Cairo for treatment.

However, the al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah circulated leaflets blaming him for the operation.

A leader of the group, Safwat 'Abd-al-Ghani, told a court trying suspected militants on August 14 that a group of Copts was behind attacks in Cairo which have killed 20 people since February.

Muslim fundamentalists have targeted politicians, the security forces, tourists and Copts since launching their campaign against the government more than a year ago.

Police Arrest 2 Suspects in 9 Aug Attack

NC2308175493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1553 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Text] Cairo, 23 Aug (MENA)—The security forces today arrested two terrorists who were among the group that opened fire on al-Qusiyah police detectives in Asyut, Upper Egypt, on 9 August.

An Interior Ministry security source stated that the suspects, Muhammad Mahmud 'Atiyah, a business undergraduate at al-Azhar University, and Ramadan Sa'd 'Abd-al-Karim, a student, have made a detailed confession about helping other individuals to carry out the attack.

The source added that prosecutors have begun interrogating the two suspects, one of whom has been remanded in jail while the other has been placed in a juvenile institution because he is a minor.

The Interior Ministry's security organs are continuing their efforts to apprehend the remaining suspects. This task involves identifying them and discovering their hideouts using surveillance.

The 9 August attack martyred policeman Muhammad Rashwan.

Writer Criticizes Security Services' Coercion, Torture

NC2308190493 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 16 Aug 93 p 1

[Article by Chief Editor Jamal Badawi: "Who Killed al-Mahjub?"]

[Excerpts] If the accused who were tried on charges of assassinating [former People's Assembly Speaker] Rif'at al-Mahjub and his companions are innocent, as the Supreme State Security Court stated in its just verdict, who then murdered al-Mahjub and his companions on the street, in the center of Cairo, and within the view of hundreds of people? The court did not find one witness to testify that any of the accused in the dock was among the culprits. This means that the accused were taken to court based on false evidence and fabrication, and that the real murderers still go free. When the security services failed to arrest them, they could do nothing but charge innocent people with a crime they did not commit, assisted in this by false testimonies or other unacceptable methods.

This is not the first time the security services have resorted to arresting innocent people to make the public think that they are alert and have fulfilled their duty. There are a number of precedents in the cases of the attempts to assassinate [former Interior Minister] Hasan Abu-Basha, [former Interior Minister] al-Nabawi

Isma'il, and [Chief Editor of AL-MUSAWWAR] Makram Muhammad Ahmad. Persons said to have admitted committing these incidents were arrested, but the courts found them innocent. Had it not been for the court's alertness, these innocent people could have paid the price for crimes they did not commit.

There is no doubt that the verdict issued by the State Security Court in the al-Mahjub case raises two important issues. The first is that the case of the al-Mahjub assassination has not been closed. More precisely, it has not been closed in the way the security services wanted. [passage omitted] The second issue raised in the court's verdict is more important and serious because it pertains to the inhuman treatment against the accused. The court in its verdict condemned this aggressive behavior, and stated that coercion was used against all the accused, and none of them escaped torture. [passage omitted]

We have learned from the past that torture is the first seed in the terrorism field. It is the cancerous cell that spreads and destroys moral values and human relations, turning society into a black forest without mercy or compassion. But who will learn the lesson in these wretched times?!.

Syrian Official Comments on Ties, Peace Talks

NC2408084293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0800 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Excerpts] Cairo, 24 Aug (MENA)—'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah, chairman of the Arab Parliamentary Union [APU] and Syrian People's Assembly speaker, has praised the good and fraternal relations between the Egyptian and Syrian peoples, especially those that bind Presidents Husni Mubarak and Hafiz al-Asad. He added that whenever Egypt and Syria get together it is in the Arab nation's interest.

In an interview with MENA, Qaddurah stressed the importance of Arab cooperation, referring to the Arab League's initiative to achieve an Arab reconciliation and to the Arab nation's need for solidarity.

On the Middle East peace process, the Syrian official said: Syria always supports a just and comprehensive peace without relinquishing our rights or conceding a single inch of our soil or a single one of the peoples' legitimate rights.

Qaddurah denied that Syria is supporting Hizballah in south Lebanon to exert pressure on Israel in order to achieve gains in the peace negotiations.

He said that he has not heard of what is called a "Middle East Market" [similar to the European Common Market] in the region, explaining that there is no alternative for Arab unity and solidarity. He added: What others are dreaming of and what we have been hearing for 20 years, that the Arabs have the money and the others have the expertise, is rejected. [passage omitted]

Qaddurah said that preparations are being made to hold an extraordinary APU session to discuss the issue of restoring Arab solidarity and clearing the Arab air and that a date for this session will be set after completing consultations with the Arab parliamentary bodies.

Yemeni Foreign Minister Arrives for Visit 24 Aug

NC2408080293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0718 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] Cairo, 24 Aug (MENA)—Yemeni Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah arrived in Cairo from Sanaa this morning on a visit of several days to Egypt.

Mubarak Receives Message From Nigerian President

NC2408082793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0752 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] [Dateline not given] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Colonel Amino, commander of the National Guard and the Nigerian president's envoy, at al-Muntazah Palace in Alexandria this morning.

The envoy handed President Mubarak a written message from the Nigerian president.

The meeting was attended by Nigeria's charge d'affaires in Cairo (Abro Mopor).

Morocco

Hassan on 'King and People Revolution' Anniversary

LD2108083493 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2145 GMT 20 Aug 93

[Speech by King Hassan II on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of "the king and people revolution"; place not given—live]

[Excerpts] Praise be to God, and peace and prayers on our master, God's messenger, his family, and companions. Beloved people: [passage omitted]

Sometimes we read analyzes in various papers that support various political parties—as we had wished right from the start. However—and this is a piece of advice—we do not see enough analysis in the media, where the regional and international maps are concerned, that would enable us to look at the national map. I think that we have to reverse our viewpoint and begin with the international map by analyzing it. After that, we descend to the regional map and finally focus on the national one, so that we can avoid swimming in dreams and losing ourselves in illusions. [passage omitted]

I appeal to all those who are preparing to embark on the last part of the electoral battle to start thinking internationally, then regionally, so as to enable themselves to place the Moroccan map, tactically and strategically, where it should be, in relation to its smaller and greater environments. [passage omitted]

We have to preserve our country's independence. This is to say that we have to be committed, not biased or aligned. We have to be committed to what we believe in. We must neither drag nor be dragged behind things we do not believe in. We have to secure stability for our country. Such stability can only be achieved if the country is affluent and if the people live in ease and dignity. [passage omitted]

We have to find employment for the Moroccan people. By so doing, we will secure economic development, freedom of diplomatic action, and tranquillity and dignity for our country.

As I said, beloved people, such objectives are easy to speak of but difficult to achieve. However, they are not impossible to achieve, either for you, beloved people, or for the political and trade union cadres that structure you, constitutionally and in reality. That is not impossible for them. I also appeal to all the intellectual class and to all the academics who research and teach to focus with us on this period that separates us from the second Friday of October, God willing, so that we enter the arena of the new Constitution, on the same note and with the same objective, where reality is not mixed with demagoguery and where trivialities and unrealistic thinking are avoided. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Official on Effort To Explain Stance on U.S. Decision

EA2308165093 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Text] Sudan has directed a broad diplomatic move toward all states to clarify its position on the U.S. decision to include Sudan on the list of states allegedly sponsoring terrorism. This was announced by Ambassador 'Uthman Nafi, acting political affairs director at the Foreign Ministry, who said contacts had been made with all the embassies accredited to Sudan to explain Sudan's position on the U.S. decision. He said Sudanese ambassadors accredited to the Arab league, the OAU, and the Islamic Conference organization had been instructed to contact the secretary generals of these organizations to explain Sudan's position to gain the confirmation and support of these organizations of the justice of Sudan's position. Ambassador 'Uthman Nafi praised the Arab League's stance towards the Sudan through its office in Washington. He clarified that the Arab League delegation had described the U.S. stances as weak, and that the evidence it adduced in its decision against the Sudan lacks itself evidence indicative that Sudan sponsors terrorism [sentence as heard]. He stressed that this American stand is seen as neither significant nor acceptable by international public opinion.

TNA Committee Criticizes U.S. Position

EA2308214793 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Text] The foreign relations committee of the Transitional National Assembly has issued a statement criticizing the American decision to include Sudan among the states Washington alleges sponsor terrorism. The statement described the decision as conspicuous interference in Sudan's internal affairs with the aim of creating confusion and obstructing the peace process. The statement added that the American administration had abandoned dialogue in favor of confrontation after realizing that Sudan would never abandon its civilized Islamic orientation. The statement called on the citizens to unite the internal front and accused the U.S. of practicing terrorism by aiding Israel against the Arabs and the Serbs against the Bosnians and attacking the Somali people. It had earlier attacked the Arab people in Iraq and Libya.

Commentary: U.S. Decision Based on Anti-Islam Bias

EA2008200093 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 20 Aug 93

[Commentary by (al-Jubayr Uthman Ahmad); read by announcer]

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and of the Council of Ministers, affirmed in his regular meeting with leaders of the mass media yesterday that the American decision made in regard to Sudan does not fundamentally depart from the double standard by which the American Administration operates. Lt. Gen. al-Bashir pointed out that this act comes in the context of a clearly hostile American position toward Islam and Muslims. He said it is no coincidence that the American list includes five Islamic states. Colleague (al-Jubayr Uthman Ahmad) wrote the news commentary about these statements.

Lt. Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir, the leader of the revolution, made important statements in his meeting with the leaders of mass media, in which he replied to the American allegations and refuted the fabricated accusations against Sudan. In the end these only represent blatant hostility toward Islam, a belief professed by approximately a billion people throughout the world.

This is the source of the fear of Islam and of the accusations levelled at Sudan charging that Sudan harbours Hizballah, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], and the Jihad Organization. America knows that

Hizballah has a legal existence in Lebanon. It contested the elections there and it is waging its battle from southern Lebanon.

As for the various Palestinian organizations, they are fighting for the freedom of their country, which has been usurped by Israel, and they are suffering from mass deportation. It is the right of anyone whose (?state) is occupied to fight for liberation so long as the United Nations remains incapable of implementing its resolutions.

America provides aid and support to the greatest state that patronises terrorism. It kills children, destroys houses, and unjustly deports innocent people from their homes.

No terrorist acts or activities have been recorded on the part of these organizations that America falsely alleges are terrorist. No guest of Sudan, be he American or Western, has been harmed, as happens in other states, as the news informs us every morning. On the contrary, America and the West are those who patronize terrorism.

The reception of John Garang, his hands smeared with the blood of innocent people taken away from their relatives, and of workers in United Nations organizations are the best proof of that. The other proof is the West's protection of the provocateurs, without even subjecting them to trial or expulsion from their territories. Where then is the patronization of terrorism?

Terrorism is practiced every day against the oppressed in the world with the full knowledge of America, while it stands by and refuses to move. Terrorism is now being practiced in the name of international legality and the new world order. America's accusation of Sudan is not based on proof, nor is it based on logic. Instead it comes within the context of an unjust campaign directed against Sudan because of its Islamic orientation and its political and economic independence. Let America furnish proof of terrorist camps.

As the chairman pointed out, the American ambassador travelled to the south, despite the security situation, to receive information and [word indistinct] from it. He is not incapacitated to ascertain camps for training terrorists which are in the peaceful north. [sentence as heard] This reveals the bias and proves the prejudice that America shows toward Sudan. Naturally, the Sudanese people know the true motives behind this prejudice, because they realize the extent of fabrication in everything that the American Administration alleges. The Sudanese people are fully aware whether there are terrorist camps or not. If the reference is to people's defense camps, then all the people are terrorists.

America's decision to add Sudan to the list of states that patronize terrorism is not anything new, because this decision means the halting of American economic aid to Sudan. This America did years ago. Since then we have adopted a decision on self-reliance and we raised the slogan of eating what we manufacture. Consequently, we do not need humanitarian support, whose underlying intentions we know.

Accusing Sudan of patronizing terrorism is a political decision because of its Islamic orientation and its political and economic independence. This is what America cannot accept or approve.

Accordingly, America placed states on this list. They are Syria, Iran, Iraq, [the Libyan] Jamahiriyah, Cuba, and North Korea, in addition to Sudan. This list has five Islamic states, the accusation of whom did not occur in a vacuum.

Sudan will not relinquish Islam no matter how much pressure increases and it will not go backward. It will no longer be a subordinate. It will do good when people do good and will offend when people offend. It is God who bestows success.

Egypt Asks To Postpone Ministers Meeting Until Oct

EA2208192093 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 22 Aug 93

[Text] Mr. Abd al-Rahman Hamzah, deputy director of the [word indistinct] office at the foreign ministry, has announced that the Egyptian side has proposed postponing the meetings of the Egyptian and Sudanese foreign ministers until October instead of September. His excellency said the meeting had been postponed due to the Egyptian foreign minister's preoccupation with the meetings of the Arab League and of the United Nations.

Preliminary Census Results Released

EA2208065093 Omdurman National Unity Radio in English 1500 GMT 21 Aug 93

[Text] The preliminary results of the latest population count in the Sudan has put a total number of Sudan's population at about 24.9 million. Speaking at a press conference today in Khartoum, finance minister 'Abd-al-Rahim Hamdi stated that total population of northern states stands at 21 million, while in the three southern states the total count is about 3.8 million.

The minister further said the count excludes the Sudanese citizens abroad, including those on refuge [as heard]. The minister explained that due to security circumstances, counts were not carried out in some nine provinces, assuring of the government's commitment to conduct counts in those areas sooner.

The count indicated that growth rate in the Sudan of 4.3 percent is considered among the highest in the world.

Bahrain

Gulf States Pledge $400 Million for Lebanon

NC2208155193 Paris AFP in English 1456 GMT 22 Aug 93

[Text] Manama, Aug 22 (AFP)—Six Gulf Arab states will give Lebanon 400 million dollars to help it recover from Israel's seven-day bombardment last month, officials travelling with Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri said Sunday [22 August].

The sum would account for all but 100 million dollars that the Arab League promised on July 31, the officials said after al-Hariri arrived here for talks with Bahrain's amir, Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah.

Al-Hariri arrived here from Damascus, accompanied by Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid.

Saudi Arabia would give 200 million dollars, Kuwait 75 million dollars and Qatar 35 million dollars, while Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and Oman would provide the remainder, they said.

No breakdown was available for the other three members of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council.

The foreign ministers of the 21-member Arab League decided in Damascus on July 31 to provide emergency aid to rebuild tens of thousands of buildings destroyed or damaged in the July 25-July 31 Israeli bombardment of south Lebanon.

Some of the money was also meant for equipping the Lebanese army, which has deployed in the south.

The officials said the remaining 100 million dollars in aid would be provided by other Arab countries, including Egypt and Syria, with each disbursing 10 million dollars.

In another development, Bahrain's foreign minister, Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah, told reporters after a meeting with al-Hariri his country would reopen its embassy in Beirut, closed since the 1975-1990 Lebanese civil war.

Al-Hariri and 'Abd al-Majid were next scheduled to travel to Qatar on Sunday and to Oman on Monday.

The United Nations is also to launch a multimillion dollar project to help reconstruct areas of southern Lebanon ravaged by last month's bombardments.

Kuwait

Iraqis Fire Over Heads of Border Trench Workers

NC2208155693 Paris AFP in English 1523 GMT 22 Aug 93

[Text] Kuwait City, Aug 22 (AFP)—A group of Iraqis fired gunshots over the heads of workers for a Kuwaiti company digging a trench along the new Kuwait-Iraq border, the interior ministry said Sunday [22 August].

The ministry said Kuwaiti security forces fired back, although it had not yet been established whether the Iraqi gunmen were soldiers or civilians.

The shots were apparently fired into the air and designed to "provoke" the Kuwaitis, rather than kill them, the ministry said.

Kuwait started digging the trench last June, and announced it would also build a sand wall on its new border with Iraq to stop Iraqi infiltration.

The United Nations drew up a new border between the two countries after Iraqi invading forces were flushed out by a U.S.-led multinational force in 1991, giving the emirate an extra 600 metres of territory all along the frontier.

Iraq has rejected the boundaries.

Foreign Minister Denies Fishermen Detained in Iran

LD2308160093 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1443 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Text] Kuwait, 23 Aug (KUNA)—Acting Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad denied today that Kuwaiti fishermen were detained in Iran. In an interview to journalists, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad said that the only things belonging to Kuwait that are in the Islamic Republic of Iran are some fishing boats which the Iranian Government has promised to return to their owners.

He mentioned the visits paid to Iran by Speaker of the Kuwaiti National Assembly Ahmad al-Sa'dun and Under Secretary at the Foreign Ministry Sulayman Majid al-Shahin, and said that the Iranian officials did not discuss during their talks with them at all any existence of Kuwaiti detainees there.

The official news agency IRNA reported yesterday a spokesman of the Iranian Foreign Ministry as saying that the Iranian authorities had started steps for the release of "seized fishing equipment and Kuwaiti fishermen who entered Iranian regional waters."

The spokesman added that there were ten Kuwaiti fishermen without mentioning their names or when they were arrested.

Upgrading Tunisian Diplomatic Ties 'Premature'

LD2308194593 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1805 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 23 Aug (KUNA)—A Kuwaiti political source today mentioned here that the talk about upgrading the level of diplomatic representation between Kuwait and Tunisia to the ambassadors level is premature.

The source, which did not want to be named, told KUNA that the visit of Tunisian Foreign Affairs Minister Habib Ben Yahya to Kuwait last June and the warmth of the reception and welcome given to Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad's envoy, Sulayman al-Murjan, Kuwaiti ambassador to Morocco, during his visit to Tunisia on 19 August had left "a positive impression, and prepared the atmosphere in a positive manner" between the two countries. [passage omitted]

The source said that, although "the atmosphere of relations between the two countries is moving on the correct track," there are some issues that require complete understanding of the Kuwaiti stance by Tunisia, or even other countries such as Mauritania, Yemen, and Algeria.

He pointed out that these issues are connected with the clear official condemnation of the Iraqi aggression on Kuwait, the issue of the demarcation of the borders, and the release of the Kuwaiti prisoners from the Iraqi prisons, in the context of a number of principles defined by Kuwait for the restoration of its relations with some Arab countries that supported the Iraqi aggression on Kuwait. [passage omitted]

The Kuwaiti political source said that those countries "understand the truth of the Kuwaiti stance," but that they should transcend their previous positions in connection with their relations with Iraq.

He added that, in fact, the matter is not connected with "face saving, because what is required is to confront the aggression by condemning it and call things by their correct names."

He pointed out that Kuwait will discuss any new developments in the positions of those countries on the sidelines of the Arab League meetings and the proceedings of the UN ordinary session due to convene this September. [passage omitted]

Arms Purchases Suspended Pending Corruption Probe

PM2408105493 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 23 Aug 93 p 3

[Report by Inal 'Irsan: "Kuwait: Parliament Forces Defense Ministry To Suspend Arms Deals To Investigate Commission Scandals"]

[Text] Kuwait—The Kuwaiti Government agreed on Saturday [21 August] to delay any major new arms purchases, after members of parliament assigned to examine government spending said they needed more time to discuss ways of preventing any potential corruption.

In a parliamentary debate on spending from funds allocated to major arms purchases and training programs, Defense Minister Shaykh 'Ali Sabah al-Salim al-Sabah said that "in practice, the Defense Ministry cannot stop payments for what has already been purchased. As for new things, it is possible to so."

He urged the National Assembly, which is dominated by the opposition, to complete the other debates it wants to conduct as soon as possible.

The Assembly had refused, in a ballot conducted on recommendation from its financial and economic affairs committee, to approve a decree issued in 1992 allocating 3.5 billion dinars ($11.5 billion) to exceptional military spending until the year 2004.

The Assembly returned the decree to the committee for further consideration. Members of parliaments urged the government to suspend any new arms purchases until that is done.

Assembly Speaker Ahmad al-Sa'dun, an experienced oppositionist, said: "I demand that the government undertake not to conclude any new deals until the Assembly has announced its opinion."

Another parliamentary committee assigned to look into matters relating to the 1990-91 Gulf war is currently investigating allegations by members of parliament that a Defense Ministry official has earned an income totaling tens of millions of dollars from arms purchases concluded by Kuwait to rebuild its Armed Forces after the war.

The allegations were raised again in a heated debate on defense spending on Saturday.

Shaykh 'Ali—who is not implicated personally in the case—persistently denied the existence of corruption in his ministry.

Al-Sa'dun told the Assembly: "Rejecting the decree by a law is the least we can do."

Isma'il al-Shatti, head of the financial and economic affairs committee, said: "We of the financial committee believe that the sum is sound but they spend it in the wrong way... the important thing is how to handle military spending."

Al-Sa'dun read to the parliament what he said was a letter dated 27 May 1993 to Shaykh 'Ali from Major General Ghazi al-'Abd al-Razzaq, deputy chief of staff of the Armed Forces.

Al-Sa'dun quoted al-'Abd al-Razzaq as saying in the letter that "my ability to fight the corruption existing in the Defense Ministry and the Armed Forces will be weakened considerably as a result of the method your excellency adopted in forming the Armed Forces, and also because your excellency did not acknowledge the existence of corruption despite the evidence provided."

The 1992 decree allocated sums for arms purchases and training to rebuild the Armed Forces, which were crushed in the 1990 Iraqi invasion and the seven-month occupation that followed it. These sums are in addition to ordinary defense spending.

The parliament is examining all decrees issued over the six years that followed its dissolution in 1986.

The decree concerning defense spending was issued a short time before the elections held in 1992, which resulted in the present parliament.

Answering a question put to him, Shaykh 'Ali said that sums totaling 1.2 dinars ($3.9 billion) out of the sum allocated by the decree—that is 3.5 billion dinars—have either already been spent or allocated to purchases which have been concluded.

He pointed out that a deal concluded with Britain this month to purchase a number—he did not specify how many—of Warrior armored vehicles will not be affected by the suspension of spending.

A major part of spending affects deals agreed under a defense agreement which Kuwait signed with the United States a short time after its liberation in February 1991.

Kuwait also signed two defense agreements with Britain and France, which participated in the international coalition which expelled the Iraqi forces from Kuwait. And it intends to sign an agreement with Russia next month.

Oman

Lebanon's al-Hariri, Arab League Chief Arrive 23 Aug

JN2308121293 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0855 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Text] Salalah, 23 Aug (WAKH)—Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri and Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid arrived here this morning on a brief visit to the Sultanate of Oman. They will meet with His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id.

They were welcomed by Qays Bin-'Abd-al-Mun'im al-Zawawi, deputy prime minister for financial and economic affairs; Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs; Musallam Bin-'Ali al-Busa'idi, minister of state and governor of Dhofar.

During the visit, they will hold consultations with His Majesty Sultan Qabus on various Arab and international issues and matters of mutual interest.

Received by Sultan

JN2308161893 Muscat Radio Oman Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Text] His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id, may God preserve him, received Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, and Arab League Secretary General 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid at al-Hikmah Palace today.

Talks at the meeting dealt with the latest developments in the Arab and international arenas, the relations between Oman and sisterly Lebanon, and ways of bolstering relations in various fields.

The meeting was attended by His Excellency Qays Bin-'Abd-al-Mun'im al-Zawawi, the deputy prime minister for financial and economic affairs, and His Excellency Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, the minister of state for foreign affairs.

Saudi Arabia

Afghan Prime Minister Concludes Visit, Departs

LD2308141693 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1330 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 23 Aug (SPA)—His Excellency Golboddin Hekmatyar, prime minister of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, and the delegation accompanying him, left Jeddah today after a several-day visit to the Kingdom.

His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation and inspector general, said farewell to his excellency at King 'Abd-al-'Aziz international airport. [passage omitted]

Paper Deplores Iran's 'Unclear' Foreign Policy

PM2308115693 Riyadh AL-RIYAD in Arabic 16 Aug 93 pp 1, 28

[Editorial: "Iran and an Unclear Picture"]

[Text] There is a big connection between the state's domestic situation and its foreign policy.

That fact is known to anyone with minimum knowledge of politics... so how about those involved in politics? Without doubt they are more capable than others of gearing actions in state organs to society's structure so as to serve their country's national interests and regional and international relations.

But this is almost nonexistent in Iran which has, since the eruption of its revolution, been experiencing to an alarming degree a problem in the relationship between society and state. And the passage of time has actually increased the unclear nature of the picture vis-a-vis its relations with neighbors!

We, in the Kingdom, can say that we are aware of this sad reality in Iran due to our geographical proximity and the Saudi policy of tireless and patient attempts to persuade Iran to make its relations with all the region's states clear and coherent without resorting to duality, telling the Iranian scene one thing and its neighbors another!

Change occurred in Iran as a result of conditions concerning it alone. So the Kingdom has never interfered in any of Iran's internal affairs. Nevertheless, Iran has tried on several occasions to tamper with the Kingdom's security. But through its policy of patience the Kingdom managed to contain many of the problems which Iran has always tried to provoke: sometimes by attacking its brothers' geographical rights in Abu Musa island, for example... and other times by instigating political unrest in the holy sites, where Muslims perform pilgrimage in security and peace.

The Kingdom has always tried to display self-restraint in the face of any irresponsible Iranian action so as to spare the region of what Iran is trying to do—namely, distract its people from trying to rebuild their inner self and soul and rectify their political program after the ferocious war which exhausted the region's economy and created security fears from which Iranian citizens suffered a great deal, all because of the lack of a policy which sought a balance between foreign policy requirements and the stability of the internal situation, where loyalties are divided in Iran.

The Kingdom has on many occasions extended its hand to the neighboring state. In fact, on some occasions the Kingdom tried to overlook all Iran's attempts to harm it, trying—gallantly and on the basis of noble Islamic values—to build sincere relations with Iran. But to our surprise, every time the Kingdom moves toward rectifying the relationship between the two countries, there is always someone who wants to maintain tension in this relationship at a time when Iranian citizens feel it is necessary to open up their economic activities to the Gulf states in order to break the shackles of the Iranian economy and extricate Iran from its international isolation—which will not be achieved except by building a correct and clear relationship with the Kingdom, which represents the central force in the region's political structure.

The painful thing in Iran's situation is that officials are aware of this fact, but they ignore it in their political rhetoric and media phrases, as the Kingdom is subjected to a huge flood of their slanderous attacks which are thwarting any attempts to mend the rift and allow a relaunch of the historic and geographical relationship between the two countries which would serve the interests of the two neighboring peoples and the stability of the situation in the region, which has suffered a great deal from political madness and foolish oneupmanship.

Two Ambassadors Reportedly Defect, Join Opposition

JN2408103193 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1000 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] A statement by the Iraqi National Congress [INC] which opposes Saddam Husayn's regime has stated that two Iraqi ambassadors have given up their posts and joined the opposition ranks abroad.

The INC said that the two ambassadors, whose names it did not disclose, are in the British capital and will hold a news conference this afternoon.

An informed source has revealed to our radio that one of the two ambassadors, Hisham al-Shawi, had been Iraq's ambassador to Canada and had previously asked the Canadian government to grant him political asylum before leaving for the United Kingdom.

The same source declined to name the other Iraqi diplomat, but said that in the past, he occupied a diplomatic post in one of the Arab Gulf countries.

Iraqi Source Denies Defections

JN2408133493 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] An Iraqi diplomatic source in Amman today denied the reports on a request by two Iraqi ambassadors for political asylum in Britain. The source said the two ambassadors were pensioned off after reaching retirement age. The source, who asked to remain anonymous, said Hamid al-Juburi, Iraq's former ambassador to Tunisia, and Hisham al-Shawi, Iraq's former ambassador to Canada, were pensioned off at the age of 63. Therefore, the Iraqi source added, the two ambassadors did not quit their jobs, but left their posts at the end of their term.

BBC said that the two ambassadors asked for political asylum in Britain and that they have important information on the rearmament plan that is being implemented in Iraq.

Information Minister Comments on UN Talks, Embargo

NC2408103193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0940 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Aug (MENA)—Iraqi Culture and Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi has stated that the political talks between Iraq and the United Nations will follow the first round of technical talks that Iraq has agreed to attend next Tuesday [31 August] at the UN headquarters in New York.

In a statement to the MENA correspondent in Baghdad, Hammadi said that the differences between Iraq and the United Nations have become "very narrow." He added that the United Nations has obtained 90 percent of the names of the companies that had helped the Iraqi armament program, but the two sides have to discuss the implementation of Resolution 715, which calls for long-term monitoring of Iraqi weapons in some sites that produce missiles with a 150-km range that are allowed by the Security Council.

The Iraqi minister said: Iraq has complied with all the clauses of Resolutions 687 and 715 and has ended its armament program, and there are no disputed points in the technical issues. It remains for the United Nations to do its part, namely lift the economic siege and allow the export of Iraqi oil.

He expressed hope that the political problems between the two sides will be resolved.

Engineer Lieutenant General 'Amir Rashid, director of the Iraqi Military Industrialization Organization, will lead the Iraqi delegation to these talks.

Memorandum Urges Saudi Arabia To Release Assets

JN2308160993 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Text] Iraq's permanent envoy to the Arab League has sent an official memorandum to the permanent mission of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the Arab League in which he, on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Iraq, urges Saudi Arabia to release $10 million to cover the expenses and the material needed for printing copies of the Holy Koran.

Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf also sent a letter to the Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, urging him to use his good offices with the Saudi Government to release $10 million of Iraqi assets frozen in Saudi Arabia to help achieve this objective.

The text of the memorandum follows:

The permanent mission of the Republic of Iraq to the Arab League extends its best greetings to the permanent mission of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. It wishes to inform the Saudi mission that the Government of the Republic of Iraq has adopted a comprehensive national plan to teach Holy Koran. This plans requires the printing of copies of the Koran and its interpretation to distribute to students at elementary, intermediate, and secondary schools.

Undoubtedly, this plan requires resources in local currency, which the government has covered, to train teachers and produce radio and television programs and increase the number of Islamic Education classes at the three educational stages. The plan also requires resources in foreign currency, estimated at $10 million, to provide the paper, material, and equipment needed to print and produce the books. This sum of money can only be provided from Iraqi funds and Iraqi funds frozen by Arab and foreign states.

The Iraqi Government, in coordination with the UN Secretary General, has discussed the matter with the UN Special Commission, which was set up in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 661 of 1990. The Commission discussed the matter in its 98th meeting on 23 July 1993 and set the following formula to execute the plan:

1. Iraq should name the country that is holding frozen Iraqi assets and is willing to unfreeze them.

2. The country named by Iraq should submit a request to the UN Special Commission to unfreeze the necessary funds.

3. The plan to print chapters of the Holy Koran should be supervised by the UNESCO.

Given the importance of executing this plan in accordance with a syllabus designed for educational, cultural, and scientific understanding, the reading of God's holy book, establishing the noble values of Islam among the new generations, and bringing up these generations in a correct Islamic manner based on the Holy Koran and the teachings of Prophet Muhammad, the Government of the Republic of Iraq urges the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to submit an official request to the Special Commission to release $10 million of Iraqi funds—the price of Iraqi crude oil held in storage tanks, pipes, and the system—to be allocated for this plan, which constitutes a major Islamic project.

The permanent mission of the Republic of Iraq takes this opportunity to express its greatest appreciation and respect.

Saddam Urges Arab Leaders Help Lift Sanctions

NC2308131993 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 17 Aug 93 p 9

[Report by Mahmud Bakri]

[Text] Iraqi President Saddam Husayn has sent messages to the leaders of Libya, Tunisia, Jordan, Yemen, Algeria, Morocco, and Egypt urging a common Arab position to save the Iraqi people from the economic crisis. According to information, Saddam asked the Arab leaders to embark on international moves to lift the sanctions imposed against Iraq. He stressed the need to forget the past and turn over a new page for the future, saying that his country is being subjected to various foreign conspiracies to divide Iraq's territory. He called on the Arab leaders to save his country from these conspiracies, which will harm not only Iraq but all the Arab countries.

In his messages, Saddam accused the United States and its intelligence services of seeking to undermine the unity of the Iraqi people. He said the United States and the West have agreed to disintegrate any common Arab action. The Iraqi president said his country complied with unjust international resolutions to save the Iraqi people from their crisis.

Kuwaiti Delegation Discusses Assistance to Kurdistan

NC2208184593 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 Aug 93

[Text] Costras Rasul, prime minister of the Kurdistan region, this afternoon received an official Kuwaiti delegation. The visiting delegation consisted of Mubarak Salim al-Sabah, assistant Foreign Ministry under secretary, and Ahmad 'Abd-al-'Aziz Jasim, director of studies and information at the Foreign Ministry. A meeting was held between the visiting Kuwaiti Government delegation and representatives of the government of the Kurdistan region led by the prime minister. The meeting was also attended by Hani al-Fukayki, member of the Executive Council of the Unified Iraqi National Congress [UINC].

The visiting delegation was briefed on the economic problems facing the people in the Kurdistan region. The delegation expressed Kuwait's readiness to extend assistance to the government through coordination and cooperation with the UINC.

Awqaf Minister Confers With Afghan Charge d'Affaires

JN2408074893 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Text] Awqaf and Religious Affairs Minister 'Abdallah Fadil today received Afghan charge d'affaires in Baghdad Seyyed Sharif Yusefi.

Yusefi condemned the 30-state aggression on Iraq, and affirmed that the aggression sought to extinguish the glow of Iraq's faith and that of its mujahid people, who emerged victorious in both the war and the reconstruction endeavor. He added that the Afghan people consider Iraq a holy land, thanks to the holy shrines located on its territory—the shrines of venerable figures held in high esteem by the Arab and Islamic nation. The reference here, he added, is to the chaste members of Prophet Muhammad's household, and to the esteemed companions of the prophet. Iraq, the Afghan charge d'affaires noted, has always been deemed a center of excellence by Arabs and Muslims.

For his part, 'Abdallah Fadil commended the good ties existing between Iraq and the Islamic State of Afghanistan.

Oil Minister Meets With Envoy

JN2408080193 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Text] Oil Minister Usamah 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hiti today met with [words indistinct], Afghan charge d'affaires in Baghdad. He reviewed the Iraqi experience in reconstructing the oil installations destroyed during the unjust 30-state aggression.

The charge d'affaires expressed his admiration for this unique experience under the circumstances of the unjust embargo imposed on the proud Iraqi people. He voiced his country's desire to benefit from Iraqi experience to reconstruct Afghan installations damaged as a result of war in Afghanistan.

Official Criticizes Turkish Water Policy, Dam Project

JN2108135393 Baghdad INA in English 1300 GMT 21 Aug 93

[Text] Baghdad, Aug 21,INA—An Iraqi official regarded the recent Turkish statements over paying prices of water by Iraq and Syria as a card to ignite the water war among the region's states.

According to the legal standpoint, Turkey should not follow this path, especially it had moved in this respect which is considered as a legal precedent in the international relations, senior irrigation undersecretary 'Abd-al-Sattar Salman said.

Mr Salman aded that the international law did not allow Turkey to adopt such this decision against Iraq and Syria, affirming that the establishment of Birecik Dam would adversely affect the electrical power production in the country in addition to its effects on the animal production in the Euphrates Basin area.

He revealed the start of the Turkish-Israeli joint project to transport the water across the sea to Israel.

Turkey has been seeking for discussing the expansion of this topic during the cancelled visit by Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin to Tel Aviv two weeks ago, Mr Salman confirmed.

He said that procedures of amendments of the new international law preponderate giving full right to the countries situated on the river and Turkey should take into consideration the need of the neighbouring countries, since the fifth article of the first protocol on organizing the water of the Euphrates and the treaty of friendship and good neighbourliness signed between Iraqi and Turkey in 1964 confirmed that .

Mr Salman elaborated that the Turkish side did not response during the recent meeting between the tripartite parties to the Iraqi and Syrian demands and it endeavored by various means to prolong the period of negotiations with a view to completing its projects and to put the Iraqi and Syrian sides before the de facto.

Replying to a question by AL-JUMHURIYAH daily on right of Iraq to raise a complaint against the foreign firms that are financing project, Mr Salman said that according the legal standpoint, Iraq has the right to sue the five foreign companies from Germany, Belgium, Austria and France besides Turkey for the presence of legal considerations providing for preventing financing any water project unless the states concerned agreed to and defined their joint shares of water. He further said that the Irrigation Ministry had prepared a plan to rationing the use of water and the use of storage capacity in al-Qadissiyah dam and to expand implementing the reclamation projects and establishing modern irrigation canals, especially the Birecik Dam would certainly impede the agricultural expansion on the Euphrates Basin.

Paper Warns Against 'Water War'

JN2308090393 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0715 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Aug (INA)—In an article today, AL-QADISIYAH, mouthpiece of the Defense Ministry, advises Turkey to side by Iraq if it wants to compensate for the huge losses it has incurred as a result of the embargo against the great people of Iraq.

The paper urges Turkey to do its utmost to free its will from foreign influence and to view other states through independent decisionmaking, in order to achieve regional security, peace, and stability. This will create a climate suitable for Turkey to develop its relations with other countries in order to guarantee its interests and progress.

In an article headlined "The Water War, Another Chapter of the Conspiracy", the paper says the Turkish rulers know that what they are harboring against their neighbors, with whom they share inseparable historical and religious ties, is against international law. This law stipulates the distribution of water between littoral states in accordance with the size of the population and in a manner ensuring a fair investment of water for their peoples.

The paper adds: Having agreed to be ready-made tools serving whoever pays the price—Zionists, Americans, British, or hireling Arab agents—it is not strange that the Turkish rulers have gone so far in this conspiracy. Those rulers have already turned Turkey into a springboard for aggression against neighborly Iraq, which shares strong, ancient ties with the Turkish people.

Provoking a new water war in the region totally conflicts with the interests of neighborly peoples who pursue relations based on mutual interests, and with intensive efforts to develop these relations.

Concluding, the paper warns Turkey that weaseling out of international agreements and treaties that organize water distribution with its neighbors will set a serious precedent that could harm Turkey itself, because it has many agreements and treaties with many nations.

Foreign Ministry Recommends Pardon for 3 Swedes

LD2308170293 Stockholm Radio Sweden in English 1615 GMT 23 Aug 93

[TExt] Swedish officials say Iraq's Foreign Ministry has recommended President Saddam Husayn pardon three Swedes imprisoned almost a year for illegally entering the country from Kuwait. Sweden says the three men strayed over the border by mistake.

Saddam Receives Army Commanders on Battle Anniversary

JN2408075093 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Text] Staff Field Marshal President Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, may God preserve him, has met with a number of fighter commanders, who had the honor of participating in the Muhammad Rasulallah battle, one of the major liberation battles, which began on 14 July and ended on 14 August 1988. This battle was crowned with the liberation of what is left of our sacred land in the eastern part of our beloved north.

The heroic commanders spoke in front of his excellency about the nature of the battle and the missions with which they were charged in the liberation of our sacred soil from the filth of the aggressive invaders. They recalled this glorious epic-like battle which was one of the eternal battles in which all types of the Armed Forces participated with great coordination and cooperation showing strong will for combat and liberation and determination to achieve the objective.

The immediate supervision of the leader president, may God preserve him, in this battle played a big role in achieving its important objectives. Big lessons on the path of liberation and victory were derived from this battle. The brave fighters carried out their missions in this battle, relying on almighty God and on the sound instructions of the commander in chief of the Armed Forces, may God preserve him. The Iranian enemy was defeated, licking the wounds of defeat and disappointment. Meanwhile, the glorious sons of Mesopotamia recorded splendid epic-like chapters in the glorious al-Qadisiyah of Saddam, the al-Qadisiyah of the Arabs.

The Allahu Akbar banner, the banner of Iraq, was raised in the hall where the meeting took place in remembrance of the role of the heroic martyr Staff General 'Adnan Khayrallah, who was the deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces and defense minister during the major liberation battles.

The following are the names of the fighters who had the honor of meeting his excellency together with the posts they held during the Muhammad Rasulallah battle:

Staff Gen. martyr 'Adnan Khayrallah Tulfah, defense minister;
Staff General Nizar 'Abd-al-Karim Faysal, Army chief of staff;
Staff General Husayn Rashid Muhammad, assistant Army chief of staff for operations;
Lieutenant General al-Qadisiyah hero Hamid Sha'ban Khudayyir, commander of the Air Force;
Staff Lieutenant General 'Ala'-al-Din Kazim Hammad, secretary of the General Command of the Armed Forces;
Staff Lieutenant General Sabir 'Abd-al-'Aziz Husayn, director of the General Military Intelligence;
Staff Lieutenant General al-Hakam Hasan 'Ali, director of the Army Air Units;
Staff Lieutenant General Sultan Hashim Ahmad, commander of the 1st Army Corp;
Staff Major General Amir Jasim Hammud, commander of the 7th Infantry Division;
Staff Major General Ghanim Sultan 'Abdallah, commander of the 44th Infantry Division;
Staff Major General Sabah Nuri 'Adwan, commander of the 27th Infantry Division;
Staff Major General 'Ali Muhammad al-Shallal, commander of the 39th Infantry Division;
Staff Major General 'Ali Ahmad Muhammad Salih, commander of the 46th Infantry Division;
Staff Major General Ahmad Hasan 'Ubayd, commander of the 28th Infantry Division;
Staff Major General Shakir Husayn 'Ilawi, commander of the 34th Infantry Division;
Staff Major General 'Isam Mahmud 'Abdallah, commander of the 36th Infantry Division; and
Staff Brigadier General Khalid Ahmad Ibrahim, commander of the 10th Armored Division.

'Mother of Battles Badge' Holders Given Salary Increase

JN2308120793 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn has ordered that those who had the honor of receiving the Mother of Battles Badge be given a salary and allowance increase of 50 percent.

The Presidential Office issued the following notice in this regard:

In accordance with the provisions of Revolution Command Council Decree No. 427 of 1991 and Decree No. 293 of 1992, the leader president, may God watch over him, has ordered the following:

Those who had the honor of receiving the Mother of Battles Badge shall have their salaries and allowances increased by 50 percent.

[Signed] Hatim Hamdan al-'Azzawi, chief of the Presidential Office

Baghdad Radio Announces Shortwave Frequencies

JN2308191993

[Editorial Report] Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic at 1800 GMT on 23 August carries the following announcement:

"Ladies and gentlemen: Good evening. We now welcome our listeners in the Arab Maghreb countries, the Arabian Peninsula, and Sudan who can receive our transmission on the shortwave frequencies of 13650, 11875, and 15200 kHz, wishing them good listening to our programs until the end of our transmission for the day."

Rabin on PLO Crisis, Arrow Missile Report

TA2408150893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] Speaking at a meeting of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee today, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that the disagreements between the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks and the PLO were none of Israel's business. When asked how the Palestinians would manage, the prime minister replied that this was their own problem. The prime minister was speaking at a meeting of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that Mr. Rabin noted that the PLO was steadily growing weaker, and many institutions in the territories that had formerly supported the PLO now backed Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement].

As for the report on the Arrow missile published by the U.S. General Accounting office, the prime minister said that he was angered by the report's attempt to besmirch Israel. Rabin asserted that the allegation that Israel had transferred Arrow missile technology to a third party was completely baseless. He said that Israel was familiar with the U.S. law and was not so stupid as to violate that law. The prime minister pointed out that in his opinion, although Israel had fallen behind schedule in work on the missile's development, things were basically on the right track.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1300 GMT on 24 August reports that "Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that his intention is to reach full peace with Syria in exchange for a full withdrawal on the Golan Heights, but not from the Golan Heights."

[The report notes: "Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that at today's meeting of the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Knesset Member Binyamin Begin asked the prime minister whether he was referring to full peace in exchange for a full withdrawal from the Golan Heights. The prime minister replied: No, I am talking about full peace in exchange for a full withdrawal on the Golan Heights. Mr. Rabin did not further clarify his intention."]

Denies Arrow Technology Transfer

TA2408104293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has categorically denied an insinuation in the report published by the General Accounting Office in Washington that Israel passed on technology from the Arrow missile project to third parties. The prime minister addressed the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee this morning. David Essing reports:

Prime Minister Rabin says there is absolutely no basis to the insinuations that Israel has illegally passed on or sold secret technology to third countries. Rabin declared, quote: Are we so stupid that we would do such a thing? Israel was fully aware that this would violate both its commitments and U.S. law, and had not done so. [no unquote as heard]

Rabin was reportedly very angry over the allegations, and Prime Minister Rabin also said that Israel has made its position clear a number of times to Washington.

Most of Rabin's briefing to the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee dealt with last week's fatal casualties in south Lebanon. The prime minister stood next to a large map of south Lebanon, going into fine details about the Hizballah bombings that killed nine Israeli soldiers. One source said Rabin resembled his old chief of staff days, giving a military briefing.

On another issue, opposition MK's [Knesset members] are furious about reports that Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has had a high-level meeting with a PLO official in Scandinavia. The Likud's Beni Begin says even if those reports are denied, the government appears bound on reviving the PLO at the very time the terrorist organization appears to be on the way out.

Defense Ministry Reacts to Criticism of Arrow Project

TA2308181693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Text] A report published by the U.S. General Accounting Office states that it is not clear to the Pentagon where the financing for the Israeli Arrow missile project will come from. The report levels strong criticism at the Pentagon, stating, among other things, that the U.S. Pentagon officials do not exercise sufficient supervision over the funds transferred to the Arrow project and how these funds are used. Likewise, there is no adequate data concerning the missile's production costs. Our correspondent in Washington Arye Golan reports that the U.S. General Accounting Office also expressed the fear that Israel is transferring Arrow-related technologies to a third party.

The Israeli Defense Ministry reacted by saying that Israel has not transferred any technologies related to the Arrow project and is careful to stay within the project's budget.

IAI Elements Reject Report

TA2408051293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Report by army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe]

[Excerpt] It is believed in Israel that the U.S. comptrollers' recommendation to restrict the future U.S. partnership in the Arrow project will be blocked by administration officials interested in seeing the Arrow project continue. The project's defense establishment advocates mainly fear that the political support which the project enjoys in Washington will be eroded.

The U.S. recommendation to redraw and seriously limit the development contract was found to be particularly worrisome. Israel Aircraft Industries [IAI] elements said Israel had transferred no Arrow-related American information or technology to a third country. They categorically rejected the insinuations of the U.S. General Accounting Office's report, according to which Israel had transferred Arrow technologies to third countries. The elements pointed out that the project was being managed in close cooperation with the defense establishment and with representatives of the American customer who approved each stage of the plan. It is inconceivable that Arrow technologies would be transferred to any country, a senior IAI source said.

The elements further noted that the report was directed mainly at Pentagon officials who were criticized for what was seen as inadequate supervision of the Arrow project.

As for the criticism of Defense Ministry representatives' refusal to present an agreed estimate of the system's development and procurement costs, the elements said that as long as the Arrow defense system's full scope was undecided, the cost was uncertain. IAI sources added that, moreover, this issue should be decided by the Israeli Government, and Israel is under no obligation to release data to the U.S. General Accounting Office representatives.

IAI elements said that SDI officials work in full and close cooperation with Israel and receive Israeli responses to each question. [passage omitted]

China Requests Permission for Jerusalem Consulate

TA2308162293 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 23 Aug 93 pp A1, A10

[Report by Hemi Shalev]

[Text] China has requested reciprocity to open a consulate in Jerusalem in exchange for allowing Israel to open a consulate in Shanghai. This was reported by political sources in Jerusalem yesterday.

A report that reached Jerusalem yesterday indicated, however, that so far the Chinese are only seeking consulate rights in principle. Officials at the Chinese Foreign Ministry implied that opening a consulate in Jerusalem would require "a long process of examination." Conversely, the Chinese are prepared to immediately allow Israel to open its consulate in Shanghai.

The Chinese request presents the Israeli Government, and especially the Foreign Ministry, with a delicate diplomatic problem. Since the state's establishment, no new consulates have opened in the Israeli controlled parts of Jerusalem. Israel refuses to allow new consulates to operate under the existing guidelines, that is without recognizing Israel's sovereignty over Jerusalem. The remaining countries still without representation in Jerusalem are unwilling to open consulates that recognize Israel's sovereignty over the city and to subordinate the consulates to their respective embassies in Tel Aviv.

The Foreign Ministry has already held initial deliberations concerning the Chinese request. Foreign Ministry elements hope to be able to open a Shanghai consulate while adequately responding to the Chinese demand for reciprocity. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is scheduled to visit China during the second half of October and is slated to sign a consulate agreement. The elements said that the Chinese are greatly interested in having an Israeli consulate in Shanghai.

Foreign Ministry elements yesterday noted that theoretically, the Chinese can open a consulate in Jerusalem without receiving the Israeli Government's approval, but it is unlikely they will want to initiate a confrontation on this matter. The elements are confident the Chinese will not agree to the Israeli conditions—that is to subordinate it to their Tel Aviv embassy—thereby avoiding a confrontation with the Arabs. It is therefore hoped that the Chinese request is indeed theoretical.

Sweden and Turkey opened consulates in Jerusalem, but only under the previously existing guidelines. Every few years the Foreign Ministry holds a session intended to determine a new policy toward the existing consulates that do not recognize the Israeli authorities. The discussions on the issue end with no results due to an unwillingness to start unnecessary political conflicts with numerous countries, including friends such as the United States and Britain. The consulates in Jerusalem are considered "foreign embassies to the State of Palestine."

Reports have surfaced concerning Japan's intention to open a consulate in Jerusalem, but these reports were not confirmed by the Japanese Foreign Ministry.

Israel also has an ongoing disagreement with the EC regarding the status of the latter's representation in Jerusalem. Israel recently allowed the EC representative to the territories to open a "technical office" in Jerusalem, but not a real diplomatic mission. The EC is not pleased with the Israeli position; it demands that its representative to the territories, whose current location is in Brussels, enjoy independent status.

Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek held a meeting with Faysal al-Husayni at a Jerusalem apartment yesterday. Various personalities, including 'Imanu'el Sharon, Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir, and 'Oded 'Eran, the assistant director general in charge of economics, also participated in the meeting. According to the participants, the meeting featured a routine discussion about the economic development of East Jerusalem and the territories.

Kollek said a more orderly dialogue with the Palestinians was necessary for the development of East Jerusalem.

For a discussion about the West Bank and the Gaza Strip Kollek referred his interlocutors to the government echelons.

Beilin: Consulate 'Not on the Books'

TA2308163593 Tel Aviv Educational Television Network in Hebrew 1400 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin by Amnon Levi, in the studio—live]

[Text] [Levi] China has asked to open a consulate in Jerusalem thereby putting Israel in a delicate diplomatic quandary. We are, of course, interested in the consulate, but we are not interested in one that is not subordinate to their embassy in Tel Aviv. On the other hand, this is a reciprocal deal since we could then open a consulate in Shanghai. Good day, Dr. Beilin.

[Beilin] Good evening.

[Levi] How will you resolve the dilemma?

[Beilin] There is no dilemma.

[Levi] How come?

[Beilin] It is very simple. If the Chinese want to set up a consulate in Jerusalem, they will be invited to do so. They will have to present an exequatur to the Foreign Ministry, and the consulate will come under the authority of their embassy in Tel Aviv or Herzliyya. If they will want any other arrangement, they will not get it. No other country has received different arrangements in Jerusalem, except for the nine consulates that existed in East Jerusalem before we took it over in 1967. We accepted the then existing situation, we did not change it, and we will not change it.

[Levi] Dr. Beilin, you have convinced me, but what about the Chinese?

[Beilin] They are not calling on us to recognize some nonexisting entity. By the way, the history of the existing consulates is interesting. It started in the middle or late 19th century, when the Ottoman empire handed out capitulations to consuls to permit them to rule their subjects living here. Many preferred these rights to becoming Ottoman citizens, therefore it was important at the time. When we took over East Jerusalem we received a given situation in which the consulates already existed. These consulates did not recognize Jordanian rule in East Jerusalem therefore they existed then and still do in an abnormal situation in which they do not present credentials to anybody. Although formally perhaps they do not have the status of consulates everybody accepts their existence. We will not add or detract from that situation and definitely not agree in 1993 to the Chinese gaining a status left over for nine consulates which have been there about 100 years.

[Levi] Dr. Beilin, do they have to ask us if they want to establish a consulate in East Jerusalem?

[Beilin] There is no other logic. I do not believe they will come to Jerusalem, set up a consulate, and not inform us.

[Levi] Are there any precedents for somebody setting up a consulate without asking us?

[Beilin] No. Look, if they want to set up a consulate, they will require various approvals. For example, the employees of the nine existing consulates have special consular status. They have special immunity. If any other country wants to set up a consulate in Jerusalem, they will want their workers to have immunity. Otherwise, there would no point to establishing them.

[Levi] Just one more question. If they decide they are not interested, will we agree to give up the consulate in Shanghai in order not to violate that principle?

[Beilin] First of all, they will not impose such a condition. Had they conditioned the setting up of a consulate, which is not really a consulate, to the establishment of a consulate by us in Shanghai, we would have given up the Shanghai consulate because we will not agree to that under any circumstances. Setting up such a consulate is not on the books.

Saudi GATT Approval Conditional on Boycott Halt

TA2008145993 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 20 Aug 93 p A6

[Report by Hemi Shalev]

[Excerpts] Israel and Jewish organizations have asked the United States to make Saudi Arabia's inclusion in the GATT [General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade] framework on its official declaration that it will no longer take part in the secondary and tertiary Arab boycott against Israel. [passage omitted]

'Oded Eran, the assistant director general in charge of economic affairs, yesterday reported that he had raised the matter during contacts he recently held with the U.S. Government. Eran asserted that Israel had no objection to Saudi Arabia joining GATT. However, officials in Jerusalem felt that this should be made conditional on Saudi Arabia terminating its participation in the Arab boycott. Eran reported that Israel and the United States were making efforts to get other Arab countries to join Kuwait in rescinding the boycott. [passage omitted]

Peres Denies Meeting PLO Official in Stockholm

TA2408064693 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 24 Aug 93 pp 1, 15

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer]

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres held a clandestine meeting with a central PLO figure in Stockholm, Sweden, last week.

The meeting had been arranged by Attorney Yo'el Singer, the Foreign Ministry's newly appointed legal adviser.

Last Tuesday [17 August], Foreign Minister Peres left for Stockholm, where he launched his tour of several Scandinavian countries. Singer, who was not the Foreign Ministry's legal adviser as yet, flew to Stockholm for the express purpose of attending the meeting between Peres and the PLO figure.

In the past, Singer liaised between Peres and Nabil Sha'th, who represents the PLO in Cairo and monitors the Washington talks between Israel and the Palestinian delegation on behalf of PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat.

As far as is known, Peres' meeting with the central PLO figure was held with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's knowledge and approval.

Speaking with our correspondent, senior political sources confirmed the fact of the meeting, but refused to divulge any details. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0630 GMT on 24 August reports: "We have just obtained a vigorous denial of this morning's reports about an alleged meeting between the foreign minister and a PLO official. I did not meet in Sweden with any PLO official or other figure from the Arab world, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said upon arrival in Denmark a short while ago."]

First Deportees Reportedly To Be Repatriated 8 Sep

JN2308152293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1430 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Text] Our reporter Sa'id Mu'addi has learned that a decision has been made to repatriate the first batch of deportees, totaling 205, on Wednesday, 8 September. Among those to be repatriated on that date are 114 residents of the West Bank, the remaining 91 are from Gaza.

Our reporter added that 33 of the deportees will complete the terms of their administrative detention, while those who were held prisoners prior to their deportation will be sent back to prison. The remaining deportees will be set free.

Rabin To Allow Palestinian Fund-Raising Event

TA2408051693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has made it clear that he will allow a fund-raising event for Palestinians in the territories to be held in East Jerusalem. He based his decision on the government policy to encourage foreign investment for economic development in the territories.

Knesset Member Mikha'el Eytan of the Likud has accused the prime minister of avoiding the political significance of the meeting place, Jerusalem. He says that holding the meeting in the capital is a political declaration by the Palestinians.

Rabin Offers Lebanon Negotiations Based on 3 Plans

TA2408130193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says he has offered to the United States and the Lebanese Government to hold peace negotiations with Lebanon based on three proposals: disarming Hizballah, determining security arrangements, and determining that units which have helped Israel, such as the SLA [South Lebanese Army], will not be harmed. Mr. Rabin noted that Syria is preventing Lebanon from making peace outside the framework of a comprehensive arrangement. He also said that Syria and the United Nations have prevented the Lebanese Army from deploying 3,000 soldiers in south Lebanon, something which would have enabled the curbing of Hizballah activity. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that the prime minister made these remarks during today's Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee session.

Comments on Efforts To Curb Hizballah

TA2408113993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says it is impossible to curb Hizballah activity by purely political means. In his opinion, the Lebanese Army could have contained Hizballah, but Syria and the United Nations are preventing this. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that Rabin made these remarks during today's Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee session.

In the session, IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officers said that since the beginning of the year approximately 880 attacks have been carried out in the security zone, which is double the number of attack during the first eight months in the previous year.

Canadian Official Sees New Syrian Approach to Talks

TA2308172593 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 23 Aug 93 p A1

[Report by Hemi Shalev]

[Text] Syrian Foreign Ministry officials have expressed great optimism and predict significant progress in the upcoming round of peace talks in Washington. The Syrians claim that this progress will lead to a substantive change in Damascus' attitude toward the multilateral talks.

Mark Parent, assistant deputy minister at the Canadian Foreign Ministry, who is currently touring the region in preparation for the convening of the multilateral talks on refugee affairs, said yesterday in Jerusalem that during his talks in Damascus, he had encountered a totally new approach toward the multilateral talks. Whereas in the past the Syrians asserted that the multilateral track had a detrimental effect on the peace process as a whole, they now evinced keen interest in the details of the talks.

According to Parent, the Syrians had led him to understand that their future participation in the multilateral talks was becoming a topical issue, although the change in Syria's position would not receive concrete expression at the next round of multilateral talks in October.

Parent is preparing the discussions of the committee on refugee affairs, which is scheduled to convene in Tunis on 12 October. Canada is in charge of these talks, which will be convening in an Arab capital for the first time.

In Jerusalem, on the other hand, a high degree of caution is voiced regarding the results of the upcoming round of bilateral talks, scheduled to begin in Washington 30 August, for approximately 10 days. A cabinet minister yesterday described the talks as "a ritual before resuming the American shuttle trips."

Sources in Jerusalem, however, also hope that in the course of the next round of talks in Washington, the Palestinians will for the first time formally present their proposal for an expanded interim accord in Gaza-Jericho First. Progress may also be made with the Lebanese on the establishment of a military subcommittee to discuss security issues pertaining to south Lebanon.

A report from Washington yesterday indicates that the Jordanians are very interested in quickly reaching agreement with Israel on a bilateral banking system, which will include the opening of Jordanian bank branches in the territories.

The heads of the Israeli delegation to the multilateral talks will this week hold their first official working session with the Israeli delegation to the bilateral negotiations with the Jordanians and the Palestinians, in order to coordinate work distribution in light of the growing overlap between the two tracks.

Consequences of Breaking Off Syrian Talks Considered

TA2308180793 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 23 Aug 93 p 9

[Commentary by Teddy Preuss: "Delay a Little"]

[Text] The time has come to consider whether we should report to the talks, slated for the end of the month in Washington. At least when it comes to Syria, we should consider whether a break would not serve us better. This should not be done for the reasons cited by the opposition. The opposition does not want peace. It prefers status quo-plus-territories, even if this leads to war. Conversely, the government wants peace, which is precisely why we should count to 10 before we go on.

Until three weeks ago, the Syrian president was highly praised, just as Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi was several months before. The prime minister, cabinet ministers, and the chief of staff described him as a man of his word, as a man who can force unpopular peace upon his country, and who understands the global changes and the difficulties they create for his desire to attain strategic parity with Israel. During Operation Accountability week, he held his fire and made no threats. Nevertheless, since he was described as the peace seeker of the day, several developments have taken place. Suddenly, he remembered that Israel is the enemy—not very heartwarming when peace is being discussed. Then, he received Far Eastern missiles, a fact that was only revealed due to the U.S. intelligence probes. At the same time, it has been discovered that al-Asad is preventing the Lebanese from deploying their Army in the south, consequently making neutralizing the terrorists there more difficult. It has been reported that the Lebanese leaders were reprimanded for trying to curb Hizballah more seriously than desired.

This could have been (hardly) interpreted as old-time Arab rhetorics, unless several military moves have taken place, climaxing with the killing of nine Golani Brigade soldiers in the security zone. It appears that when he says that Israel is the enemy, al- Asad means what he says. Indeed, the fatal side bombs and road mines were not placed by his soldiers, but it is commonly believed—not only in the government compound in Jerusalem—that al-Asad has not been making too much efforts to curb the terrorists. As usual, Israel responded with fire and steel, followed by the formal explanation: The Christopher cease-fire agreement has not been broken. Although we used fire and steel, the enemy did not respond by shelling Israeli settlements with katyushas. The understanding with the Syrians did not state the security zone is a fire-free zone. Nothing was said against shooting a little and playing with firearms. The cease-fire has been observed to the letter; but what of its spirit?

Since it was established, the government has made a careful distinction between ongoing security issues and the end goal, the attainment of peace. Yitzhaq Rabin and his cabinet swallowed hard, and avoided responding to attacks by Palestinians and Hizballah so as not to harm or put off the negotiations, distinguishing between what is important and what is not. Nevertheless, nine dead soldiers can no longer be called "an unimportant mahter." Their killing is the opposite of "confidence-building measures," to which the enemy is committed no less than us, and has even mentioned them as necessary interim goals.

Jerusalem is pointing at Washington's efforts to call the Syrians to order, urging them to use their influence—directly and indirectly—and allow the Lebanese to prevent Hizballah from reaching the south. But, what would happen if, as some fear, the Syrians were to stick to the oral agreements and leave the security zone as a playground where both sides "may" shoot at each other? Suspending the talks, they say in the Prime Minister's

Office, would only be playing into the hands of those opposing peace, headed by Hizballah. Ordering Itamar Rabinovich, Uri Lubrani, and their colleagues to stay home, would mean that the negotiating parties are rewarding the terrorists.

The logic of this argument cannot be denied, but we should consider not only what is undesirable for those opposing peace, but also what is essential to us. Securing the northern settlements and the lives of our soldiers in the security zone is our necessity. Our side assumes that al-Asad needs the territories returned just as we need peace. If this is true, we may gamble and delay the Washington talks; if not, all the more reason not to pointlessly continue the talks! As much as we desire to attain peace, we have no choice but to hold on to strategic asset of the Golan Heights and to the water resources in the face of an enemy that does not want peace. If it does want peace, it should calm the security zone as a confidence-building measure. If it does not, let it sit and wait for us on 22d Street in Washington just as if it were waiting for Godot. This, despite the fact that Shaykh Fadlallah and Bibi Netanyahu may rejoice.

Building 'Boom' in Golan Heights Observed

TA2008143993 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (SHIV'A YAMIM supplement) in Hebrew 20 Aug 93 pp 18-20, 22

[Article by 'Idit Pelekh]

[Excerpts] Something strange is happening on the Golan Heights. Up to three months ago, all budgets were frozen, building projects were stuck in various stages of construction, the inhabitants were despondent, leading extremists to make declarations which set off a storm around the country. There was a feeling that it was the beginning of the end. And now, while U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher says he is optimistic, senior officials in Jerusalem say that the peace talks are entering the last lap, and those close to Prime Minister Rabin say that a meeting between him and Hafiz al-Asad is only a question of time, a new wind is blowing high up on the Golan Heights.

Somebody has opened the tap. Frozen budgets have been thawed, approval for some grants and loans have been approved, and others are in the final stages of being approved. [passage omitted]

Even Yehuda Wolmann, head of the Golan Regional Council, says that he has not seen such a building boom for 26 years. The scope of the boom is as follows:

—Paving roads: Many roads in the northern Golan Heights have already been repaved. At present, a trans-Golan road is being paved. It is 30 km long and runs from Mevo Hama in the south to Qatzrin in the center. Another road, which will be closed in the coming days in order to be repaved, runs from Wasit to Kafr Naffakh. A deal has just been signed—and will start being implemented within two weeks—to pave a new road from Majdal Shams up to Mount Hermon's lower ski station. From there, a new road is being paved with funds from the Har Hermon company owned by inhabitants of Neve Ativ. All these roads are in the initial stages of construction. The funds for the projects come from the Defense Ministry, the Public Works Division, and the Jewish National Fund.

Another road, which has already been approved and will be build in 1994, is the Ma'ale Gamla-Moshav Kanaf road.

The investment in roads, according to Wolmann, will be 40 million shekels in the coming budgetary year.

Housing Units: 1,700 housing units will be set up on the Golan Heights in the coming year. Some are already in the works after having been frozen. The building on other units will commence soon. Some 1,000 of the units are being set up in settlements associated with the Golan Regional Council and the Bney Yehuda and Hispin regional centers. Some 700 additional units will be set up in Qatzrin. These figures do not include private building as part of the Build-Your-Own-Home framework and private initiatives.

Some 26 housing units have just been inhabited in the Bney Yehuda communal settlement. Families from the center of the country moved into 22 of them. The building of another 112 units will be completed by the end of October.

Public Construction: A community center inaugurated in Kibbutz Merom Golan last month serves all the inhabitants of the northern Golan. In about one month, the building of a religious community center will end in Hispin. Another center in Qatzrin is in the initial stages of construction.

Industrial Plants: A new chocolate factory is being set up in the Qatzrin industrial zone. Building is due to end in about a year and it will employ some 100 people. A plant for eyeglass frames, also in the Qatzrin industrial zone, is being set up. At first, it is expected to employ some 25 workers. Another factory, to make floor tiles, is also being build in Qatzrin. The construction of a new industrial zone has just been completed in Bney Yehuda.

Renovations and Expansion: Existing plants—funding plans for the expansion of Golan Wineries have been completed. The expansion is estimated to cost in the millions of shekels. The Mey 'Eden mineral water company is currently moving into a new building in the Qatzrin industrial zone. Two plants currently undergoing expansion are one which makes hand luggage and belongs to Kibbutz Mevo Hama, and Ari, in Kibbutz Kfar Haruv, which makes automatic valves, mainly for export. The largest expansion is taking place in the plant which makes subtitles for movies at Kibbutz Elrom, where a great deal of money has been invested and a significant breakthrough has been made.

Agriculture: 40 (!) small barns are being set up in various settlements. In addition, another three large barns are being built in the settlement of Qeshet, in Kibbutz Geshur, and the settlement of Ramat Magshimim. Three more barns—which are in fact one barn, the largest of its type in Israel—are being built jointly by Kibbutzim Elrom, Merom Golan, and Ortal. A giant structure meant for 400 cows is already in the final stages of construction. Three other structures connected with the same barn are planned for the future. The milking station in that barn is in the advanced stages of construction. A huge milking platform is already situated there. In the future, when the construction is completed, it will float on water, which will flow under it and will permit it to be rotated easily.

The estimated investment in that barn is 13 million shekels, of which some 2.5 million shekels is earmarked for a sophisticated sewage system, which will prevent seepage of sewer water into rivers on the Golan Heights. The funding for that barn comes from the Agriculture Ministry (20 percent), the Jewish National Fund (10 percent), the Jewish Agency's Settlement Department (55 percent), and 15 percent from funds put up by the kibbutzim themselves.

Another agricultural field in which funds are being invested for development and expansion is apple and nectarine orchids, mainly in the high mountain ridge area.

Tourism: A tourist project going up in Kibbutz Haruv is an observatory of the Sea of Galilee and a modern snack bar. Rooms-to-let in kibbutzim and moshavim are becoming popular and new ones are being built all the time. Intensive work is also being invested in other tourism fields: Canoes, jeeps, dune buggies, and horseback riding.

The highlight in this field is a resort village at Neve Ativ, owned by Ze'ev Greenfeld and Ya'aqov Mamon, whose construction has just been resumed. They have just received approval from the Treasury and the Investments Authority. They were recognized as a government approved enterprises several months ago, but the grants and loans were frozen. Now, they are building intensively in order to complete the work by the winter. They have raised funds and have taken out loans until they receive the promised funds, estimated at some 7 million shekels, of which they received one million shekels prior to the freeze.

At the same time, members of Neve Ativ, in partnership with the Har Hermon company are also building two new, sophisticated cable cars at the Hermon site. Over 1,400 skiers will be taken up hourly on each of the cars, compared to 400 on each of the existing six cars. [passage omitted]

[In a separate box on page 22, the author carries a 200-word report with reactions to the article, as follows: "Within the framework of the change in priorities by the Rabin government, a critical decision was made not to start construction not yet begun under the previous government in the territories and in some locations inside the Green Line. No decision was made to freeze government building on the Golan Heights.

["'Building is not frozen,' Construction and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer says, 'but we have also not transferred a single penny there. All we have done is to continue projects already budgeted for and begun before we were elected. This refers to several settlements, both kibbutzim and moshavim. Almost no roads have been paved within the framework of the Public Works Division. It is possible that you are referring to roads under the responsibility of the Transportation Ministry, if the roads in question are approach roads and urban roads.'

["The Treasury said there are no special budgets for the Golan Heights and that they do not know of a special building boom in the area. It also said that it is possible that new classrooms were built because of population growth, but not as a result of a government decision deriving from a policy to expand settlements on the Golan Heights.

["It should be noted that Finance Minister Avraham Shohat said several months ago that he does not recommend investing in the Golan Heights. The Investment Authority in the Industry and Trade Ministry has not been presented with new investment proposals on the Golan Heights although the settlements there enjoy Development A status, which has been taken away from industrial zones in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank."]

New Settlement To Be Established

TA2308164793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Text] The Golan Heights Settlements Committee decided that the initial group will inhabit the Dor Hagolan settlement later in the month. Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv recalls that the settlers purchased small trailers and brought them to the site. Tractors have been preparing for the new settlement's infrastructure, which has been set up under the noses of the Police since no legal reason could be found to prevent the four trailers from reaching the site.

King Husayn on Peace Talks, Assassination Attempt

JN2308174693 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1545 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Text] Amman, 23 Aug (PETRA)—His Majesty King Husayn has said that freeing the Palestinians from occupation, establishing them on their national soil, and largely rectifying their long-suffering situation in a radical and organized manner requires coordination with the Palestinians, the Arabs, and the whole world in order to avoid anything that could harm these objectives.

His majesty said that the negotiations have stumbled because the Palestinian negotiators cannot predict the features of the final situation. He also said that there cannot be a solution without taking Jerusalem into consideration, or one that allows one party to impose its itself over the others.

He stated this in an exclusive interview with AFP correspondent Randah Habib, transmitted today. The following is the text of the interview:

[Habib] The first question is, of course, about the peace process. The Gaza, Jericho First option is now being proposed as part of Palestinian autonomy in the occupied territory. The question is why Jericho in particular, instead of Hebron, which is closer to Gaza? Do you have any fears that this step could mark the beginning of a transfer [preceding word in English] operation for the Palestinians toward Jordan?

[Husayn] In order to clarify things, and for the sake of truth, I would like to explain here that there has not been any coordination yet with the Palestinians on this subject. In general, we will coordinate with them as soon as possible. Therefore, I am not in a position to elaborate, although I believe that the absence of the required coordination raises questions over the consequences and dimensions of such a proposal. This is justified in the absence of a clear view of the meaning of any step that might be taken, as well as its consequences.

[Habib] Within the same framework, there are 57,000 Palestinians who have come to Jordan since 1968, and who have not been able to return to the occupied territories because Israel refuses to renew their [travel] permits. How can Jordan prevent such an action from recurring in the future, even under early empowerment measures?

[Husayn] Undoubtedly, this issue is the subject of continuous talks and discussion with all the parties concerned. The objective is to allow those people and brothers to return to their homeland and people. We have submitted this demand and we insist on it being met. I believe that we should closely examine any future steps. If Israel withdraws from any part of Palestinian territory, there must be full preparation for a large-scale qualitative step in the life of the people on their national soil. We were criticized at a certain stage because we intended to participate in the multilateral talks. Since then, we have had in mind to get the international community to assume its responsibilities toward this tragedy, and to prepare studies on what should be done when the Palestinians restore their rights on their national soil, and when the occupation and their sufferings are eliminated.

Therefore, whether regarding the first question or this question, there should be coordination and preparations to tackle the matter, in order to entrench the kinsfolk on their land and national soil and to end their years-long suffering in a radical and organized manner. This forces us to insist on coordination among us, first, as well as with the brothers in the Arab world and with the whole world, in order to avoid any harm or retreat in terms of our objectives and goals. Our objective is to support them in order to enable them gain and enjoy their rights on their national soil.

[Habib] Speaking of coordination, Jordanian-Palestinian relations have recently witnessed a tangible development, represented by the formation of six joint coordination committees. This brought to the surface again—at least in the media—the issue of confederation. Is there a clear concept regarding the future relationship between the two sides?

[Husayn] In this regard, I would like to say again that in 1972 we proposed three alternatives. We had one of these alternatives in our mind and it was a subject for discussion. At a certain stage, sisterly Egypt severed relations with us just because we proposed this alternative. One of these alternatives was to return to unity. At that time, before it, and even before 1967, I personally felt that there was a Jordanian push by all our kinsfolk, from various roots and origins, to belong to a Jordanian identity. Our kinsfolk and brothers in Palestine also had this feeling. We proposed three alternatives: Unity, which, in my view, was impractical in light of the new situation in this part of the world and the new trend of the Jordanians and Palestinians; a united state; and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state, if this is what our kinsfolk and brothers want.

When we presented this idea at that time, there was a great effort to present an alternative, so that the people would think it over and exercise their right to choose freely when they are able to do so. This legal and administrative relationship ended with the disengagement decision in 1988.

But we have considered this, since the beginning, and we still do consider it, an internal affair within the framework of the family to which we belong as Palestinians and Jordanians. The disengagement [from the West Bank] was not made to benefit any third party, specifically Israel. If we recall past events, we find that the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, accepted Security Council Resolution 242 after the disengagement decision.

The disengagement decision was made in response to a Palestinian, Arab, and Islamic demand. The negotiations began in a new changing world, a world that has changed radically in recent years, and amid the prevailing Arab circumstances. We provided an umbrella for the Palestinian delegation to move and speak on behalf the Palestinian Arab people and to shoulder their responsibilities, out of our total faith that no solution to the Palestine question can be imagined without the direct participation of the Palestinian people. We support them with all our capabilities in their endeavor to restore their rights on their national soil. In this stage, we faced, in my view, a strange situation. The countries [involved in the peace talks] talk about their occupied territories. But for the Palestinians, the situation was different. From the beginning, the talk was about a transitional stage that will lead to a final status. I used to ask this question to anyone I discussed this subject with: What will this transitional phase lead to? When I was recently, repeatedly asked about the reasons that the negotiations began to falter, my answer was that the Palestinian negotiator, who has acted courageously, shouldered great responsibilities, and exposed himself to several risks, represents the conscience of the Palestinian Arab people. This negotiator began to feel that he was in a position in which he could not guess what the final stage would be. The Palestinian side should be given some clues about the final status. On the other hand, there is the subject of Jerusalem. When we speak about Jerusalem, the holy city and the shrines, we speak about this as Arabs. We speak about 'Umar Bin-al-Khattab Covenant, the rights of Muslims and Christians alike.

In other words, the situation of the holy places should be taken into account, and there should never be a solution in which a single party imposes itself over the others. If we want peace between believers in God—the sons of Prophet Abraham, peace be upon him—a certain satisfactory and acceptable situation must be established. On another level, we talk about Jerusalem with a certain concept in mind, and Israel talks about it at a time when it has annexed one-fifth of the occupied West Bank to what it calls greater Jerusalem.

We are pleased to hear that the Arab citizens in Jerusalem will take part in the elections for the body that will take responsibility in the coming stage, or the interim stage that will pave the way for a final status. But we have to take measures, or at least reach a commitment, preventing further changes in that area, pending a situation in which this issue is settled. In my view, these two issues are important in terms of concept and effect. Therefore, we proposed this to many sides that take an interest in the cause and the march.

Regarding the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship, we stressed the need for coordination during our recent meeting with the Palestinian leadership. Although the coordination is advanced for the Arab parties concerned in this stage, including Jordan and Palestine, than what we have been used to in the Arab world, it is still much less than what the situation should be. Unless there are efforts to firmly entrench this relationship on a solid basis of mutual confidence and bilateral cooperation, we will not achieve much that can satisfy our consciences.

This requires us to discuss everything, including the establishment of a joint operations room to deal with the political dimensions, urgent issues, and all incidents in an effective manner. What we see now is only the beginning of the situation we wish to attain in order to achieve the required results, in light of the facts and responsibilities we all assume. Regarding a confederal or a federal relationship, we can say that this relationship can be determined one day when the Palestinian Arab people regain their rights and are able to decide whether or not to accept this relationship we envisage.

If such a proposal would help achieve progress and enable the Palestinian people to regain their rights more quickly and with better conditions, then there is no harm in proposing it. But, regardless of whether the proposal is made in the near future and as a result of many efforts, or raised in 1972, the objective remains the same: To let the people express their own will and say what they wish when they are free to do so. Here we have an established state, there we have occupied territories. They are the same people, and they are brothers and kinsfolk. The objective is to see an end to their suffering and reach the situation that we wish for them, and which we endeavor to achieve. When that objective is reached, we can start to discuss whether they want to pursue an alternative we have proposed, or choose whatever they want.

[Husayn] The peace process was launched on the basis of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which stipulate the return of the occupied territories. With the development of the peace process, calls have come from inside [the occupied territories] demanding a that the decision to sever ties be reversed, in order to deal with the issue of sovereignty over territory. Where do you stand on this issue?

[Husayn] I believe that decision is still valid and there is no going back on it. It is not in anybody's interest to think about this dimension or raise it in any away. Our brothers wished to assume their responsibility toward their cause with full support and backing from us, in every sense of the word. This is what they have chosen and accepted, and it is based on Resolution 242. Therefore, there is no alternative now but to continue on that path and there will be no going back on that decision, not in any way.

[Habib] What about sovereignty?

[Husayn] We have tried to explain this issue dozens of times. The issue of severing ties is an issue between the kinfolk. It is an internal issue that has nothing to do with anybody or anything else, like Israel or Resolution 242. Therefore, from my viewpoint, the question I asked myself was: What is the meaning of moving toward a transitional phase and then a permanent status? All matters should have been handled in the same way, but, unfortunately, this has not happened.

[Habib] To whom should the occupied territories be returned?

[Husayn] They should be returned to the Palestinian Arab people, who can then decide what they want to do in light of the circumstances and conditions in the region.

[Habib] Is there a Jordanian vision of how the Palestinian refugee issue must be addressed?

[Husayn] As regards the issue of refugees, it is an issue that must be discussed. However, as far as our Jordanian family is concerned, I would like to emphasize the fact that we, Muhajirun [Muslims who emigrated from Mecca to Medina with Prophet Muhammad] and Ansar [Medina Muslims who welcomed in Holy Medina Prophet Muhammad and his Meccan companions] are one family. People are held equal to one another regardless of their origins or ancestral lineage. Once rights are restored to their rightful owners, the Palestinians will be free to choose to return home, or to choose whatever they wish in this regard. But, the main thing here is that we are one family, and that we will work relentlessly to retain this cohesion.

[Habib] You were exposed to several assassination attempts in the past. There have not been any attempts, however, for nearly the last 20 years. This remained the case until an attempt on your life, set to be carried out during the June graduation ceremony of the Mu'tah Military University, was uncovered. How do you explain this?

[Husayn] As a matter of fact, the news of this attempt shocked me immensely. However, I do not deem it peculiar. Attempts on my life have not ceased throughout the long march. I also consider myself the happiest of all people in view of the appreciation I have received from Jordanians throughout the long march, particularly during recent years. I hope and believe that I will also receive similar appreciation once future generations make their judgments. I hope that their judgment will be in our favor, and not against us. This has remained my wish. On the other hand, if we look at our Arab and Islamic history, we come to the conclusion that, since the era of orthodox caliphates, leaders have continued to be the target of such attempts by isolated groups here and there. As for me, I am a believer in God, and also in the following Koranic verse "To every people is a term appointed. When their term is reached, not an hour can they cause delay, nor an hour can they advance it in anticipation."

The people of this country are my big family. I always keep in touch with them and mingle with them. With respect to the Mu'tah issue, it is another matter. We wanted the Mu'tah University to be a special university in the full sense of the word, and so it will be, God willing. The majority of people at the Mu'tah University are special, and so are its students. This will remain the case in the future. Nonetheless, the university might require a reorganization in some areas, one way or another. It never dawned on me that certain groups could manage to influence and deceive some of our youth in this manner. The plot was uncovered while it was still in its infancy. It was kept under control. More information was obtained on the matter. Afterward, measures were taken against some of those directly involved in it. The interrogation continued, and the party responsible for the attempt was identified. It is the Islamic Liberation Front. Right now, the case will be referred to the judiciary. Everybody will follow the implications and secrets of this case.

[Habib] While you believe that the West depicts Islam as the new world terrorism, we see that developments in Algeria by extremist Islamists and the recent incident in Cairo make it difficult to confront this campaign. What can you do about the way these incidents harm Islam?

[Husayn] We hope that we will be able, here in Jordan, to tackle this issue through the exemplary model we give. If a certain group of the Muslim brothers chose to form a front and to use Islam as its slogan, then we hope that this group will rise to its responsibilities and play a role in defending Islam as a true religion in the full sense of the word. This group has contributed to drafting the National Charter, which I consider one of the pillars of the present and the future, after the Constitution, to organize our lives in this country.

[Habib] In your recent speech, you spoke about two great projects; the first is the completion of the united democratic Arab Jordan, and the second is the reactivation of the pan-Arab project, the Great Arab Revolt project, with new formulas and a new appeal?

[Husayn] It is a Jordanian call in favor of the human rights of the Arab citizen, in order to be aware of the dangers to the greater Arab homeland posed at this stage and to reorganize the affairs among brothers, enabling them to confront the challenges and dangers facing them.

[Habib] You are preparing for a tour of southeast Asia at the end of this month. What is the objective of this tour?

[Husayn] The objective of this tour is to visit countries with which we have firm relations, and to hold meetings with the leaders of these countries. I will visit Thailand and then China. My visit will coincide with the 10th anniversary of my visit to this country. I am responding to an invitation. I hope it will be a useful and important visit regarding what has been achieved there and what I have in mind about this country. I will find that China has made great progress in all fields. It is a UN Security Council [permanent] member state, with which we maintain firm relations. Later, I will make a stopover in North Korea to respond to a longstanding invitation. Then I will visit Japan. On the way back home, I will stopover in Singapore. I want to see this country again in order to learn from its economic power.

[Habib] During his recent visit to Jordan, you raised with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher the international sanctions imposed on Iraq and their impact on the Kingdom, and he promised to look into the matter. Have there been any new developments in this regard?

[Husayn] We are expecting an answer to this very important question very soon. We do not think there is any reason for this unacceptable situation, which is unfair to Jordan, to continue. We have raised the question with many people in the world, and we expect a answer in the near future.

[Habib] What is new in inter-Arab affairs? Have there been any new developments since the visit your crown prince made to Qatar?

[Husayn] This was a good step toward resuming the old relationship, which was based on strong foundations in the past. We hope the case will be the same with our other brothers in the Arab homeland.

[Habib] There have been noticeable Jordanian moves in the direction of Turkey. You have visited that country, and Prince Hasan is now visiting. Do you see a new, growing regional role for Turkey following the retreat in the roles of both Iraq and Iran?

[Husayn] We have many shared interests and old ties. We also have the current reality, which means that we both shoulder major responsibilities. Therefore, my visit was very successful indeed. I believe the ensuing visit by the crown prince was also successful. I think Turkey is a very important country in this part of the world—in the past, present, and future. Our relations have always been good. We had to renew and revive contacts in answer to an invitation from the Turkish president, who is an old friend.

Islamic Party Denies Link With Bid To Kill King

JN2308110293 Amman AL-AHALI in Arabic 23 Aug 93 p 3

[Text] The Islamic Liberation Party has issued a statement denying that the six Mu'tah University detainees belong to the party.

The statement accused "dominating security agencies" of "fabricating this plot" to discredit the party, because it did not apply for a license.

The statement added: "The Islamic Liberation Party categorically denies any connection with the alleged plot against the king. The party does not believe in violence or assassination."

Mu'tah Detainees' Relatives Stage Protest

JN2308150093 Amman AL-AHALI in Arabic 23 Aug 93 p 1

[Text] Over 300 citizens related to the Mu'tah University detainees who were charged, according to an official Jordanian source, of plotting to assassinate King Husayn, staged a protest outside the al-Hashimiyah Palace yesterday, Sunday.

Mahmud al-Zuyudi said that over 300 people from the Bani-Sakhr, Bani-Hasan, al-'Abdallat, al-Zughul, and al-Jidi tribes arrived on Sunday and erected bedouin tents outside the gates of the al- Hashimiyah Palace in al-Hummar, waiting for his majesty the king to arrive in order to make their complaint to him directly.

Security agencies transferred the detainees to the Military Jail last week in preparation for bringing them to trial. Some quarters expect the trial to begin next week.

AL-AHALI met with some of the detainees' relatives, one of whom said that the governor of Amman and the director of the Amman Police Department met with the protesters and told them that the news about their protest had reached the king, who is now aware of their demands. The governor and director said the protesters' action would tarnish the country's image and the governor asked them to end their protest, remove their tents and placards, and leave the area.

The relatives said the charges against the detainees were unfounded and that their case has illogically exaggerated. The relatives demanded that their children be brought to a fair and open trial. A relative said it was difficult to believe that certain students would be able to plan an operations that would need an entire army to execute, such as taking control of places like the radio and television stations.

The detainees' relatives kept calm, accepted the governor's demand, and left the area after receiving pledges that they will meet with the king.

Prime Minister Views 11th Round of Peace Talks

NC2308065693 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Telephone interview with Jordanian Prime Minister 'Abd-al- Salam al-Majali, in Amman, by Ashraf 'Abd-al-'Aziz, in Cairo, on the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] ['Abd-al-'Aziz] Welcome to the Voice of the Arabs.

[Al-Majali] Thank you.

['Abd-al-'Aziz) As we begin this dialogue, you stated earlier that you have agreed to let the Jordanian delegation take part in the 11th round of Arab-Israeli peace talks. You were one of the parties involved in the talks. In fact, you chaired the Jordanian delegation. What is the Jordanian impression of the 11th round of talks?

[Al-Majali] I am optimistic by nature. Moreover, the signs we get from here and there, particularly from the U.S. sponsor, indicate that there are serious efforts to guarantee the success of the peace process and remove the obstacles hindering negotiations. We hope 1993 will be the year of real peace.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] As you have said, you are optimistic about peace in the Middle East. What makes you optimistic?

[Al-Majali] As I said, what went on between brother Palestinians and the Americans to prepare the atmosphere for this coming round and what we heard directly from the U.S. secretary of state and the U.S. President make us believe that there is an inclination to remove the hurdles and achieve progress, particularly this year.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] This optimism involves other parties. But Israeli statements indicate to some people that there is no cause for optimism and that Israel is not serious in its peace quest.

[Al-Majali] We hear other statements. Man usually picks the statements that appeal to him. We also hear serious statements, affirming that the Israelis are pursuing peace. The negotiations sponsor is serious. True, there are obstacles, but I believe that there is progress, particularly the tacit admission that the Palestinian delegation members are members of the PLO. This is a new and positive step toward making progress in the coming round.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Reports say that some Arab-Israeli tracks are experiencing some progress. However, the Palestinian track is still encountering hurdles. What is the Jordanian stand, particularly since there is a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation?

[Al-Majali] There is no joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the Washington talks. There are two delegations: A Jordanian delegation negotiating along the Jordanian-Israeli track and a Palestinian delegation negotiating along the Israeli-Palestinian track. There are no international delegations in the true sense of the word; it is not an international conference involving many states. Therefore, the international umbrella is not required during bilateral talks. In the course of negotiations, there is no need for such an umbrella at present. However, if another conference similar to Madrid's is held to assess the outcome of bilateral talks, this international umbrella might be necessary so that brother Palestinians can keep up their negotiations and set up the Palestinian transitional government. After that, there will be no need for a joint delegation.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] As we get ready for the 11th round of Arab- Israeli peace negotiations, it is known that you are committed to a united Arab stand on the peace process.

[Al-Majali] We are fully committed to a united Arab stance; we are committed to a comprehensive solution and against individual solutions. We have agreed on the basic agenda of the next round of negotiations. Certain points related to language remain to be clarified. We announced publicly that we would not be able to get into details during negotiations until other tracks, particularly the Palestinian, take their course toward success.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] What about a Palestinian-Jordanian confederation?

[Al-Majali] This is premature; a confederation should be established between two states. Once the Palestinian people's right [to establish a state] is recognized and the Palestinians really exercise that right, and if they want that confederation, the Jordanian people will be willing to consider this matter. Consensus on this will not be hard. However, talking about this matter before this point is reached might imply that something is being imposed on the other party. We do not believe in imposing anything on others.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] What will you say to the foreign ministers of the cordon states at their next meeting in Beirut?

[Al-Majali] I believe that we seek during such meetings—I attended most, if not all of them—to present our cases so that everyone expresses his viewpoint, be it negative or positive. We try to reach a standard stance. If views are not identical at 100 percent, we respect each other's viewpoints and keep up coordination.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Through your negotiating experience, what do you say to Arab negotiators?

[Al-Majali] I advise them to be patient, to avoid pessimism, to look at things seriously, and to believe that only patience can solve difficult problems.

Al-Majali Expresses Optimism

JN2208195193 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 22 Aug 93

[Carried within the "News at Ten"]

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali said he had received American assurances of determination to help establish peace in the Middle East.

The prime minister said the U.S. wants 1993 as the year of a breakthrough towards Middle East peace.

In an interview with the News at Ten, Dr. al-Majali expressed optimism at the outcome of the next round of peace talks, saying he hoped it would be another step towards peace.

[Begin recording] [Al-Majali] As usual, I am always optimistic. And I believe this round is going to be another step towards progress for the peace, because I am assured by the American Administration that they are very, very serious, and they want to see that this year, 1993, is the year of breakthrough towards real peace in the area. So, I am optimistic; and I hope that in this round things will come clear, that the other tracks—the Palestinian-Israeli track, and the Syrian-Israeli track, and the Lebanese-Israeli track—will come to a real, concrete paper of success for everybody.

[Reporter Maha al-Sha'ir] One of the hot issues, nowadays, is the one-man, one-vote decision; and there are so many criticisms made by different political parties and individuals on the government. Can you express your point of view on that?

[Al-Majali] Well, the government is the government for everybody, not government for one party or another. We are not a party in the government: We are for everybody, from left, right, or center. And we believe that it is nondemocratic, and nonconstitutional that you change your rights according to your address that day. If you are registered in Karak, you've got so many to vote for. If you are in another town, it goes down to quarter of this; and if you change to another, you go half. It means that my address will decide my right in the Constitution. I believe this is wrong, and it is undemocratic. [end recording]

The prime minister had earlier met with representatives of Jordanian and international print and electronic media for a discussion of the role of media in a new Jordan. Dr. al-Majali stressed the importance of the freedom of expression, and access to information as important means in the democratic setting. He called for the establishment of an information and archive center to help serve the objective of a free flow of information through the press.

Answering questions, the prime minister said the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks had faced several problems, particularly receiving the political recognition they sought from Israel and the world. He said Jordan will stand by the Palestinians and extend all the help they need. The prime minister said Jordan will not sign a unilateral peace agreement with Israel, and that Jordan will not advance in the negotiations unless there is tangible progress on the Palestinian-Israeli dimension. He said Jordan was determined to return its occupied lands, restore its water rights, and resolve the refugee issue, particularly that Jordan was the world's biggest refugee host.

Dr. al-Majali also said Jordan has always called for better inter-Arab relations, and that with the new order designed for this region, the Arabs will be the greatest losers should they continue with their divisions.

The Minister of Information Ma'n Abu-Nuwwar had earlier addressed the journalists, and introduced the information strategy for 1994. He said the laws on press and publication and the Journalists Association were the legal grounds on which the press should stand. Dr. Abu-Nuwwar defended the journalists' code of honor he introduced, and said the journalists and the association had the final say on its existence.

Al-Majali: No 'Separate Solution' With Israel

JN2308113393 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 23 Aug 93 pp 12, 13

[Excerpts] Amman—Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali has reiterated Jordan's firm position on the comprehensiveness of a peaceful solution on all tracks. He said it will not accept a separate solution.

Dr. al-Majali said: We and the Israelis have formulated an agenda concerning basic issues. No such agenda has been reached on the other tracks.

At a meeting with local and Arab press and foreign news agency correspondents at Jordan Television Corporation yesterday afternoon, attended by Information Minister Dr. Ma'n Abu-Nuwwar and Minister of State Dr. Jawad al-'Anani, Dr. al-Majali said the Palestinians face many problems. He said Israel will inevitably recognize the Palestinian leadership as the Palestinian people's sole and legitimate representative.

Al-Majali said: We do not impose any viewpoint on the Palestinian brothers. They are free to adopt what they believe is suitable for them. He added: Coordination between us is at its highest. They keep us informed of all their moves and the details of the contacts they have had with the U.S. secretary of state and ranking U.S. officials. [passage omitted]

Commenting on a proposal by AL-DUSTUR Chief Editor Dr. Nabil al- Sharif to establish a national press training center in cooperation with the relevant media organizations, Dr. al-Majali emphasized the importance of the private sector's contribution to this effort. He noted that the government believes the public sector's role should be that of a partner, supporter, and organizer. He said it is illogical that the public sector does everything, emphasizing that we all are partners in this national march.

For his part, Jamil al-Nimri, chief editor of AL-AHALI, mouthpiece of Hashd [Jordanian People's Democratic Party], called for fair treatment of party newspapers. He said these papers and those working on them should be treated in the same manner as other newspapers, adding that these papers should be recognized by the press association and cited in the television's press review features. He said these newspapers should also receive their fair share of government advertisements.

In reply to a question by al-Nimri on the amendment of the Election Law, the prime minister said an intensive dialogue was held among all the key sectors, in the press and the various media bodies for a period of more than 2 and a half months. After running out of time, he said, we had to to make a decision. He said other amendments could be made later. The new law will be submitted to the next parliament, which could accept or amend it. He affirmed that the Constitution guarantees the separation of the three branches of power: the executive, legislative, and the judiciary. One branch must not overpower the other.

In reply to one question by journalist Sultan al-Hattab on the government's efforts to clear the Arab atmosphere and restore Jordanian-Arab relations to normal, and to another question on who the enemies of democracy are, the prime minister said Jordan constantly calls for Arab reconciliation. He said that before the Gulf war erupted Jordan had clearly warned against the resulting dangers. Many parties in the United Nations, as well as France and the United Kingdom, have made signs concerning Jordan's sound stand on this issue.

Dr. al-Majali stressed the need to restore Arab solidarity so Arabs can be in a position to allow them to actively participate. He said they should not let positions they did not develop be imposed on them.

He said: We, in Jordan extend our hands to the brothers. I am confident that our relations with our brothers in the Gulf will have an honorable future that augurs well.

Dr. al-Majali explained that democracy is based on law and the Constitution, on a positive and constructive dialogue, on the method of convincing the other party, and respect for the other side's opinion.

In reply to a question by Salamah al-'Ukur from SAWT AL-SHA'B on developments in the peace process and on Jordanian-Palestinian coordination in this respect, the prime minister said coordination is carried out on many levels, from general policy to topics that should be discussed between the two sides.

Al-Majali added: As Jordan, we and the Israelis have formulated an agenda on all the basic issues to safeguard all our rights, while the Palestinian brothers have not been able to reach such a thing, as yet, as well as the Syrian and Lebanese brothers. We had two tasks during the negotiations. The first was to remove the wrong impression people had about Jordan's stand on the Gulf crisis, so relations can return to normal. This was very difficult. The second was the method we followed during the negotiations to get all we want.

Al-Majali added: Regarding the Jordanian track, we managed to reach a formula for an agenda. Basically, we invested this success to serve the Palestine question, because it is the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict. We have always clearly announced that we would not move from this position if the Palestinian track did not move forward. This also applies to the other tracks. We believe in a comprehensive solution. We do not believe in separate deals.

The prime minister pointed out that the Palestinian brothers faced problems that are more difficult than those faced on other tracks. This is because Israel, since the very beginning, has cast doubt on the presence of the Palestinian people. Israel used to say the territories are Israeli, and that this is a Jordanian people of Palestinian origin. To confront this, there ought to be an affirmation that we would not hold negotiations or sign on behalf of the Palestinians. In other words, the Israelis must recognize the Palestinian leadership.

Dr. al-Majali added that the Palestinian track made progress on many points. However, the original point hsa not been tackled yet: How can the Palestinian leadership be recognized? He said: A change in the Israeli position toward political recognition of the PLO as the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative is proceeding, but not in a way that may be satisfactory for us. However, this is a complicated, lengthy, and difficult issue. Israeli public opinion is a basic factor in this change. This matter should take its time.

Al-Majali added: We do not impose anything on the Palestinian brothers. It is true that we formed a joint delegation with them, but it was an umbrella agreed by Jordan under His Majesty King Husayn as the only opportunity and the only way for the Palestinian people to express their identity. However, we insisted in the bilateral talks that there was actually no joint delegation, so there would be no opportunity whatsoever for the Israelis to pressure us into holding negotiations on behalf of the Palestinians. Therefore, we do not want to interfere in Palestinian affairs, so the Palestinians can obtain their political right to self- determination. This is an indisputable matter.

The prime minister asserted that the Jordanian-Palestinian coordination in this phase is at its best, adding that the brothers in the PLO briefed us, verbatim, on all that took place between their negotiating delegation and the U.S. side in Jerusalem. We do not want to impose anything on the Palestinians. They know their own affairs and issues better than we do, and they should be completely free to decide on their own issues.

With regard to coordination matters and the Jordanian-Palestinian committees, the prime minister said: We are holding discussions on a list of topics between us. We used to be united, and afterward the disengagement decision [severing legal and administrative ties with the West Bank] was made. Now, the Palestinian identity is being shaped. The six joint committees were set up to discuss details when a transitional government is established. This means we should discuss how we will handle such issues as trade, currency, bridges, education, water, refugees, and other issues. We should negotiate with the Palestinian brothers on all these issues.

Replying to a question by colleague Hamid al-'Abbadi, a member of the Press Association Council, about media reports that Israel facilitated Palestinian citizens' exit from the occupied territories to Jordan at an average of 5,000 people daily, in addition to the presence of 300,000 West Bankers in Jordan, and about their failure to return home, and the dangers posed by this situation, Dr. al- Majali said: This step was taken in response to repeated requests by the Palestinian brothers in order to reduce the psychological and financial pressures facing them, and to allow them to visit their relatives. He pointed out that the age of those permitted to travel was reduced from 35 years to 25 years, and that the fees on travelers were also reduced.

The prime minister urged the media and the press to carry out their duty to clarify the picture and enlighten Palestinian citizens arriving in Jordan across the bridges so they realize both the need for and importance of their return home, in order to prevent Israel from using this to implement its plans to empty the occupied territories of their inhabitants and build Israeli settlements. He said the Jordanian Government is following up on this issue. If it finds out that this would harm the Palestinian people's cause, appropriate measures would be taken in this regard. He pointed out that the Education Ministry a few years ago decided to prevent the transfer of any student from the West Bank to East Bank schools, in order to entrench the Palestinian people on their soil and in their homeland, and resist Israel's deportation and settlement schemes.

Al-Majali added: Preventing people from entering Jordan cannot take place by suppression. The press should assume the responsibility of cooperating with the government in clarifying the picture for people in order to avoid any risks that may arise, especially since if this issue is aggravated, matters would be out of control and would greatly harm both Palestine and Jordan. [passage omitted]

'Text' of Working Paper Presented to Palestinians

JN2408114493 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 24 Aug 93 p 15

[By Riyad Mansur]

[Text] SAWT AL-SHA'B publishes exclusively the full text of a Jordanian working paper presented to the Palestinian leadership on the nature of the activity of the six committees set up after the Jordanian-Palestinian summit meeting between His Majesty King Husayn and President Yasir 'Arafat last month.

Knowledgeable Palestinian sources have disclosed that the Palestinian side has introduced some amendments to this paper. However, the Palestinian leadership has not yet handed it back to the Jordanian Government.

The sources declined to reveal the points that were amended, saying that they will be discussed during the next meetings of the Higher Jordanian-Palestinian Joint Committee.

The following is the full text of the paper:

Introduction

Palestinian-Jordanian relations, which have taken a distinguished form over past decades, link the strategic interests of the two peoples in a way that makes coordination between them a cornerstone of any activity of interest to both. This is especially true because the historical, political, and socioeconomic ties between the two peoples, within the context of their exceptional human bonds, make it imperative to crystallize a common perspective for their future relations.

Since the Middle East peace process requires a studied, coordinated outlook that represents the common interests of both peoples, and given the concern of the higher leadership of each people to develop positions that serve these interests, joint coordination has now become a question of paramount significance. Therefore, a mechanism for this coordination should now be put in place to become an indivisible part of the negotiating process on the one hand, and to map out future plans on the other. Such coordination, of course, does not nullify or diminish the independent decisionmaking of each party concerning positions that do not affect the other party.

Coordination Mechanism

In order for the coordination process to achieve its purpose, the coordination mechanism should be on two levels:

1. The Higher Jordanian-Palestinian Joint Committee.

2. The specialized joint committees evolving from the higher committee.

The Higher Joint Committee

The higher committee's first duty is to lay out a vision of future comprehensive relations between Jordan and Palestine proceeding from the following principles:

1. The need to formulate strategic visions based on joint higher interests. The privileges arising from these visions should be in line with the free choice of the two peoples and in light of priorities to achieve the joint higher interests.

2. Linking future visions and their alternatives to the ongoing negotiating process and the degree to which these visions will serve the objective of this process in terms of restoring the territories and rights, including Arab Jerusalem.

3. Taking the initiative to present Arab alternatives for future regional cooperation and responding to alternatives by other quarters in the United States and Israel.

The Higher Joint Committee, which was formed in accordance with the list attached to addendum No. 1, will be in charge of the following:

1. Supervising the work of the specialized committees;

2. Approving the studies and recommendations made by these specialized committees;

3. Adopting the specialized committees' recommendations and decisions, which are approved by the joint committee, as policies; These policies will be adopted by the executive bodies of the two sides, the representatives of which will adhere to these policies in the Arab, regional, and international negotiating stands;

4. The higher committee will be the authority on the coordination of joint Jordanian-Palestinian stands;

5. The higher committee will draw up the decisive criteria which govern the strategies for coordination between the two sides, including the future visions on joint issues;

6. Taking the initiative to formulate alternatives and visions on what may be presented at international forums, whether in order to activate a certain issue or

respond to what is presented at these forums; this will take into consideration the affect the higher committee's current activity toward future joint action has on both sides;

7. Approving information policies that serve the joint interests of both sides, especially concerning the peace process and public opinion, in which these policies will serve their goals;

8. Coordinating stands and means of cooperation among the negotiating delegations of both sides during sessions of negotiations.

The Specialized Committees

Based on an agreement reached during the first meeting of the higher Jordanian-Palestinian committee, the following specialized committees were formed:

1. The Jerusalem Committee.
2. The Refugees Committee.
3. The Land and Border Committee.
4. The Laws and Legislations Committee.
5. The Economic Committee.
6. The Water Committee.

The Jerusalem Committee

This committee will formulate ideas on the future of the Jerusalem issue, in terms of its political, geographical, religious, historical, or population-related aspects, taking into consideration that the geographical aspect is part of the Palestinian issue and that the religious and historical aspects are among Jordan's basic concerns, in light of the historical transmission of responsibility over Jerusalem from the Ottoman Empire to Jordan, which the Vatican acknowledges.

In this field and within this framework of this understanding, the Jordanian role acquires special importance in terms of filling the sovereignty vacuum, a point that could be raised from time to time.

From this premise, the committee's tasks shall be as follows:

1. To prepare legal studies that outline the rights the Arab side has in Jerusalem and the historical bases of these rights;

2. To formulate future common concepts for Jerusalem;

3. To coordinate the negotiating stands, the common stands, and stands on the international level to confront the Israeli claims to Jerusalem;

4. To prepare studies to preserve the Awqaf properties and coordinate the two sides' stand on them;

5. To study the controls, limitations, and supervision of the purchase of real estate in Jerusalem to safeguard its unique character.

The Refugees Committee

While the refugees issue is primarily a Palestinian issue, any decision or policy on it will directly affect Jordan. Therefore, the committee should carry out the following:

1. Formulate a phased common strategy to deal with this sensitive issue within the framework of the bilateral or multilateral negotiations;

2. Match figures, facts, and statements on the refugees and establish a database for this purpose that will be an accredited reference for both sides;

3. Prepare the necessary studies on the refugees problem as it it is now and in line with how the two sides seek to settle it in the future; these studies shall tackle the economic, demographic, and social dimensions pertaining to the refugees wherever they may be;

4. To formulate various concepts on how to tackle this issue in a manner that safeguards their [refugees] rights and that will be in line with the common political rights of both the Jordanian and the Palestinian side.

The Territories and Borders Committee

As the issue of territories and borders is one of the common issues for both parties in the peace negotiations, and as this issue affects the final solution, whether regarding regional matters or the common borders, the tasks of the Territories and Borders Committee will be:

1. Working out a comprehensive concept of security, especially since this subject is a top priority for Israel, provided that this concept should be the basis of the negotiating positions with others;

2. Coordinating the joint positions on the claims for the territories, whether in terms of sovereignty or geography;

3. Preparing studies and concepts dealing with the security aspect and the future situation of the occupied territories, in light of security arrangements in any future peace treaty.

The Water Committee

In light of the absolute strategic importance of water issues for the two sides, and the direct impact of these issues on future economic and social development, the Water Committee will carry out the following tasks:

1. Preparing water and legal studies on the rights of both Jordan and Palestine to water in their joint territories;

2. Preparing studies on retrieving the water which the Israeli and other sides plundered from both parties to pave the way for entrenching these rights;

3. Coordinating positions on water at regional and international forums and in bilateral and multilateral negotiations;

4. Establishing a database on water;

5. Working out future concepts and alternatives to joint bilateral water investment and regional water projects.

Laws and Legislations Committee

In light of the political and socioeconomic relationship between Jordanians and Palestinians, which is organized by laws and legislations that form an indivisible part of the Jordanian legislative structure in the occupied Palestinian territories, and in light of the two sides' desire to promote this relationship in the future within legal and institutional frameworks, the Laws and Legislations Committee will do the following:

1. Conduct studies on legal and legislative issues in the occupied territories in terms of their connection with administrative laws and legislations;

2. Coordinate laws and legislations that will be endorsed in the occupied territories to serve the mutual interests of the two sides in all fields, particularly in economy, travel, and residence, etc.

3. Conduct studies on rights and legislations that promote a unified legal standpoint for Palestinian rights in international forums and bilateral and multilateral working groups, within the context of international law and international agreements;

4. Coordinate the use of joint expertise in the legal and legislative areas when issuing laws and legislations in the Palestinian territories.

Economic Affairs Committee

Since economic activity between Jordan and Palestine is a mainstay of the relationship between the two peoples, and given that ridding the economy of the occupied territories of dependence on Israel is a major goal and guarantee for the future of Palestine, the Economic Affairs Committee will do the following:

1. Conduct studies and present ideas on trade and services between Jordan and Palestine;

2. Outline ideas on currency, customs, banking institutions, joint investments, tourism, transportation, and infrastructure;

3. Conduct studies and draw up plans on developing the economy in Palestine;

4. Present views, alternatives, and studies on bilateral and regional projects and specifying the features and priorities of these projects;

5. Evaluate regional development projects and present specific views on them.

Committees' Method of Operation

Taking into account the fact that the specialized committees will be mainly responsible for preparing and submitting recommendations to the higher committee, these committees are expected to comprise sufficient members of specialists, and these committees will have the right and the opportunity to seek others' experience if necessary. Whether such experts are individuals or institutions, the committees' method of operations is expected to be within the following framework:

1. Each side will name the members of its specialized committees as soon as this document is endorsed;

2. A committee will comprise a maximum of six persons on each side and a minimum of three persons;

3. A coordinator from each side will be named in the committee;

4. The specialized committees will meet when necessary at least once monthly or whenever the Higher Committee so requests; the meeting's venue and date will be set through consultations between the heads of both sides in the committee;

5. The coordinator of each committee will submit a joint report and his committee's recommendations through the higher committee;

6. The higher committees [as published] will meet at least once bimonthly or when necessary through coordination and consultations between the heads of both sides;

7. When adopting any recommendation, the higher committee will define ways to implement, agree on, follow up, and verify the implementation of any recommendation.

Members of the Higher Jordanian-Palestinian Committee

The Jordanian Side

1. Dr. Ma'n Abu-Nuwar, minister of information.

2. Dr. Jawad al-'Anani, minister of state for cabinet affairs.

3. Dr. Muhammad Mahdi al-Farhan, minister of municipal and rural affairs and environment.

4. Bassam Qaqish, minister of water and irrigation.

5. Talal Sat'an al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs.

The Palestinian Side [Subtitle]

1. Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu Mazin, PLO Executive Committee member.

2. Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, PLO Executive Committee member.

3. Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi, PLO Executive Committee member.

4. Sulayman al-Najjab, PLO Executive Committee member.

5. Faysal al-Husayni, head of the steering committee of the negotiating delegation.

6. al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, Palestinian ambassador to Jordan.

Media 'Code of Honor' Opposed by Journalists

JN2308074093 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 23 Aug 93 p 1

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Text] Amman—The government Sunday sought to introduce a controversial "code of honour" for the Jordanian information media but immediately met with opposition from journalists. Some of the opponents said Jordan did not need such a document in view of the existing Press and Publications Law, while others said such a move should be preceded with elaborate dialogue and consultations.

Despite the setback, both Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali and Information Minister Ma'n Abu-Nuwwar affirmed the government's keen interest in coordinating with the Jordan Press Association (JPA), the umbrella body for journalists in the Kingdom.

Dr. Abu-Nuwwar, at the outset of a meeting with local and foreign journalists at Jordan Television, presented an outline of the proposed code, which could be later enacted as a provision in the Press and Publications Law and the statute of the JPA.

Dr. Abu-Nuwwar said the code, which commits the Jordanian information media to the principles of honesty, good faith, accuracy and objectivity based on indivisible truth and commitment to obtaining information through legitimate means, was in no means a final document.

He criticised those who have been attacking since he presented it first two weeks ago, saying the opposition to it was not based on principles of democracy or freedom but "simply because it was presented by the minister of information."

He said he had made it clear that the code, which also commits the print media to correcting inaccurate reports, editorials and commentaries upon the request of any party "harmed by their publication, or by choice with the aim of enhancing the papers' credibility and maintaining their reputation," was subject to the approval of the JPA, and by extension, by Jordanian journalists themselves.

JPA President Sulayman al-Qudah replied the "certain circles" in Jordan and abroad were trying to create an impression that there was a crisis between the Ministry of Information and the JPA over the issue. He said dialogue was continuing between the two sides and there was no crisis.

However, Mr. al-Qudah indicated that the JPA resented being presented with a fait accompli. He said the JPA had no objections or reservations over any code of honour for the media, but that the association felt that it should be consulted in advance prior to the releasing of the document in public.

"We have to formally study the proposal and review the entire concept," Dr. al-Qudah told the JORDAN TIMES after the meeting. "But we cannot accept something that is being imposed on us."

Several other journalists said that in view of the 1993 Press and Publications Law, which clearly defines the legal guidelines for journalists, in terms of gathering news and reporting as well as consequences of inaccurate reports and articles seen as libel, there was no need for a further code of honour.

Others said if indeed there was a need for such a document, then extensive discussions and consultations between the journalists and the concerned authorities should precede its finalisation and formalisation.

Dr. Abu-Nuwwar said he spent two months preparing the "code of honour" for the press and that he had presented it to His Majesty King Husayn and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the prime minister, former ministers and all chief editors, in addition to the JPA and requested their feedback.

The strategy is valid until the end of this year when a new strategy incorporating all reactions and feedback will be worked but for the year 1994.

Dr. Abu-Nuwwar said the new strategy comes in implementation of King Husayn's directives, which stressed the need for a strategy defending freedom, democracy and human rights.

Dr. al-Majali addressed the gathering and said the media should respect a number of principles so that it can be effective and convincing to friends and enemies alike.

"Free expression" is the first of these principles, he said, noting that the "written word is stronger than the sword" and therefore should be carefully selected.

Urging journalists and information officials to deal very carefully with their work, Dr. al-Majali said that the media should adopt and rely more on documentation and accurate information.

Stressing the need for the creation of a specialised centre for information and archives, Dr. al-Majali said that this endeavour should be shouldered by the private as well as the public sectors. "Do not depend on the public sector and make demands on it all the time," he said.

Dr. al-Majali admitted that all the "means of deterrence and oppression will not do" in the face of the inflow of hostile media reports from outside through all modern technological means, especially TV transmission through satellite. He said that only through strengthening the means of education and media could this cultural invasion be checked. Although the prime minister thought that ordinary people can always tell good from bad and he urged journalists to be credible and seek the truth.

One of the other principles which ought to be respected, he said is perfection and creativity in the media and information work.

Objectivity is another main principle that should be respected in the profession, he said.

If a journalist gets access to classified information he or she would be at a loss to publish it and gain publicity or be careful not to reveal secrets that might be harmful to the nation, Dr. al- Majali said. He said that the journalist should sacrifice his or her own interest of the sake of serving the national interest.

Minister of State for Prime Ministry Affairs Jawad al-'Anani, who took over from Dr. al-Majali who left the meeting because of a previous engagement, answered journalists' questions on issues related to the information policy as well as other subjects.

Mostly, Dr. al-'Anani, an eloquent and quickwitted speaker, reiterated Jordan's known policies and approaches and managed to keep one step ahead of the questioners.

PLO's 'Arafat Arrives in Amman for Talks With King

Met by al-Majali

JN2308153093 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Text] Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Amman today. He was received at Amman Airport by Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al- Majali, the prime minister; Dr. Jawad al-'Anani, the minister of state for cabinet affairs; the Palestinian ambassador in Amman; and a number of Jordanian and Palestinian officials.

President 'Arafat is accompanied by Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, the head of the PLO Information Department.

In a statement to our correspondent for political affairs, President 'Arafat said:

[Begin recording] First of all, I am pleased to be here, particularly to meet with his majesty the king and the brother officials to discuss important and essential matters related to our central cause, the Palestine question. We will discuss both our blessed intifadah and the suffering of our people under the Israeli occupation, and the current bilateral and multilateral negotiations. This is especially important since we are coming closer to the time of the 11th round, which necessitates further talks, consultations, and an exchange of views with his majesty so that we can pursue the march at this difficult and important stage. This makes it necessary for us to display greater firmness, unity, and solidarity among all the nation's sons. [end recording]

'Arafat Meets Prime Minister

JN2308205493 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Text] Palestine President Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Amman this evening for talks with his majesty the king. He was welcomed at the airport by Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Jawad al-'Anani, and other officials. Mr. 'Arafat is accompanied by the head of the PLO's Information Department, Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh. He told the "News at Ten" that the Palestinians would not abandon Jerusalem as their capital. He said a proposal for an Israeli withdrawal first from Jericho and Gaza was only an option which would be discussed with the other side.

[Begin recording] ['Arafat] Say Jericho as a capital for the Palestinians. [sentence as heard] Our capital is Jerusalem. Sooner or later, this is a very important for us, and I know it will not come very soon, but no doubt, Jerusalem is not only Palestinian issue, it is a Palestinian, Arab, Islamic, and Christian issue. This is very important to be known for everybody.

[Television correspondent Maha al-Sha'ir] And why do you want to leave the discussion of Jerusalem?

['Arafat] That concerning of Gaza-Jericho, this is one of the options which is in discussion in front of us with the other side.

[Al-Sha'ir] And on what bases?

['Arafat] One of their options and first option is the early assumption of functions and early empowerment which we had completely refused.

[Al-Sha'ir] Many Arab leaders are optimistic about the peace talks, the 11th round. Do you think some tangible progress is going to be achieved?

['Arafat] We have to wait and see. [end recording]

Mr. 'Arafat and Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali later opened a meeting to coordinate positions in preparation for the 11th round of Arab-Israeli peace negotiations due to convene in Washington next week.

During the hourlong meeting, the two sides exchanged views on latest developments pertaining to the peace process. They agreed to work for unifying Arab positions and upgrading coordination at the peace negotiations to arrive at legitimate Arab rights according to United nations resolutions. President 'Arafat said later that the two sides discussed obstacles placed by Israel in the path of peace.

Joint Strategy Discussed

JN2408061993 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] A joint Jordanian-Palestinian working session opened in Amman last night to coordinate positions and prepare for the 11th round of the peace negotiations, set to begin in Washington next Tuesday [31 August].

Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali led the Jordanian side to the meeting, while Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat led the Palestinian side.

During the meeting, which lasted for more than one hour, the two sides exchanged views on the latest in the peace process in light of regional developments.

The two sides discussed ways to enhance joint coordination within the context of joint Arab coordination, based on unifying Arab positions at the peace talks. This is meant to achieve the largest gains possible to guarantee achieving all legitimate Arab rights, in accordance with international resolutions and in a manner acceptable to future generations.

Jordanian and Palestinian sources said the meeting was positive and fruitful. It underlined the two sides' desire to upgrade joint coordination to achieve Arab ambitions and aspirations, by paying attention to constant Arab principles and rights, rather than relinquishing them.

In a statement to the press, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat said a positive, brotherly spirit permeated the meeting. He said: The two sides discussed various issues as one side, working as one team, in a joint march that seeks to achieve Palestinian and Arab rights and support the peace process to establish a just, comprehensive, and durable peace that guarantees our legitimate pan- Arab rights. He added: The two sides discussed obstacles preventing progress in the peace process, placed by Israel to obstruct our achievement of our national rights.

Responsible Jordanian sources said the two sides discussed ways to enhance joint Arab coordination, especially during the coordination conference of the states and parties participating in the peace process, to be held in Beirut on 27 August, in preparation for the 11th round of the peace talks.

The meeting was attended for the Jordanian side by Dr. Ma'n Abu- Nuwar, information minister; Dr. Jawad al-'Anani, minister of state for Prime Ministry affairs; and Talal al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs. Attending for the Palestinian side were Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh and Yasir 'Amr, members of the PLO Executive Committee, and al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, Palestinian ambassador in Amman.

Al-Majali Confers With Palestinian Party Delegation

JN2308121893 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Text] This morning in his office, Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al- Salam al-Majali received a delegation representing the Palestinian People's Party led by Bashir al-Barghuthi.

They discussed the future concept of Jordanian-Palestinian relations and fields of joint coordination on the peace process. They reviewed progress on the Palestinian track and problems that negotiations may face in the future.

Al-Barghuthi stressed the party's support for continuing and enhancing the Jordanian-Palestinian consultations and coordination as part of the peace negotiations, and for defining the future relationship after the Palestinian people regain their right to self-determination, so they can make independent decisions.

Al-Majali reaffirmed that Jordan under His Majesty King Husayn supports the Palestinian negotiating team. He stressed Jordan's adherence to a comprehensive solution on all tracks. He urged the Palestinian brothers to hold further coordination among themselves and to unify their positions. This is because Palestinian cohesion will help regain the Palestinian Arab people's legitimate rights and serve the Arab negotiating position.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Jawad al-'Anani, minister of state for cabinet affairs; and delegation members Dr. Ghassan al- Khatib, member of the Palestinian negotiating delegation; Sulayman al-Najjab; and Taysir al-'Aruri.

Editorial Urges More Coordination With Palestinians

JN2408104293 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 24 Aug 93 pp 1, 25

[Editorial: "Removing the Occupation First, Then Comes the Freedom of Choice"]

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has asserted that we in Jordan are one large family, composed of the Muhajirun and al-Ansar [Palestinians and Jordanians], and that there are no differences between people, regardless of origin and descent. He affirmed that we will remain so until rights return to their owners and until the kinfolk are in a position to choose, within the framework of one family which adheres to a common objective.

Thus, our major common objective in this phase is to remove the occupation. Afterward, the people, who will then enjoy the freedom of expression, can express their opinion on whatever they want and on whatever they choose. Until this is achieved, Jordan will continue to do its best to make the kinfolk and brothers reach such a choice.

No doubt, this background—according to which the Jordanian position is made—stems only from the special and distinguished Jordanian-Palestinian relationship. This relationship is characteristic and deeper than the relations with other Arab brethren. This fact is acknowledged by the Arabs and the world. We also acknowledge and emphasize it.

Perhaps, all this requires, first of all, that coordination, cooperation, and understanding between the Jordanians and Palestinians be promoted to the highest possible degree. Moreover, any postponement or interruption in this regard should be avoided, particularly in this extremely sensitive phase of the Palestine question and at this particular time when the fate of this question, which concerns all Arabs and Muslims, may be determined.

While adhering to such a concept in our relations with the Palestinian brothers and while proceeding with them on the path of achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the region, we in Jordan will continue to do our best to complete the building of an Arab, unionist, and democratic Jordan, and reconstruct the pan-Arab project—the project of the Great Arab Revolt—by new formulas and a modern, understandable approach.

These are Jordan's responsibilities. This is the role Jordan is now deservedly playing with a profound sense of responsibility, not only for the sake of Jordan's national entity and the future of its people, but also for the Arab man. The Arab man is equally aware of the seriousness of this phase in the Arab nation's life. Equally, he looks forward to reconstructing the pan-Arab entity in a way that deals with challenges and conforms to the spirit and great realities of this age.

'Islamic Jihad Cells' Threaten U.S. Over Blind Shaykh

NC2308212593 Paris AFP in English 2110 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Text] Beirut, Aug 23 (AFP)—A hitherto unknown group on Monday threatened U.S. interests, notably in Lebanon, if Washington does not deport to Afghanistan Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, the blind Moslem cleric whose followers have been charged in the World Trade Center bombing.

In a statement read over the telephone to several Lebanese dailies, an unidentified caller purporting to speak for the Islamic Jihad Cells accused the U.S. authorities of shillishallying in the face of a request made by 'Abd-al-Rahman's attorney.

"This attitude aims at harming Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman by handing him to the Egyptian authorities or another party, not taking into account the troublesome consequences of such a decision which will trigger the anger of any Moslem seeking to defend his religion," it said.

"The Islamic Jihad Cells in Lebanon warn the American authorities and urge them to be fully aware of the danger of such a step that will not be in the interest of the United States, its interests or its citizens abroad, in general and in Lebanon and the Middle East in particular," it added.

On Wednesday, the cleric's lawyers said in New York that the Egyptian-born 'Abd-al-Rahman may be deported to Afghanistan, whose prime minister, Golboddin Hekmatyar, announced he would be happy to shelter the "leader of the Islamic nation."

Egypt has put out an arrest warrant on the shaykh who was taken to custody last month in the United States after his permanent resident status was revoked by the Justice Department on grounds he posed a danger to the community and might flee.

On August 16, a U.S. federal judge rejected a request for the shaykh's release, giving him 10 days to appeal. If no appeal is made, the cleric could be deported at any time, said one of his lawyers.

Buwayz Says U.S. Showing 'Dynamism' on Peace Talks

NC2408064593 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has said that the situation in the south will not be calm until the peace negotiations reach a crucial turning point and achieve substantial progress.

Buwayz noted that Israel's recent statements about including Hizballah in the negotiating process are hollow and are unacceptable to the Lebanese state. He described the 11th round of peace talks as a distinguished one that will take a clearer course than the previous rounds. He pointed out that the U.S. side has shown dynamism lately.

Buwayz' statement to Radio Free Lebanon came on the eve of a meeting set to be held in Beirut on Friday and Saturday [27 and 28 August] of the foreign ministers from the Arab countries involved in negotiations with Israel. He noted that there are many reasons behind Israel's escalation of the situation.

Buwayz on Arab Aid, Resistance, Peace Talks

NC2308183993 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has said that Arab assistance to Lebanon is Lebanon's right and a duty for the Arab brothers. He said the Arab countries, no matter what their economic conditions, have no excuse for avoiding this duty.

On the situation in the south, Minister Buwayz told AL-SHARQ newspaper that Lebanon does not accept turning its Army into a guard on Israel's border for as long as the occupation of the Lebanese territory lasts. He said the state reserves the right to resist, a right that belongs to the entire Lebanese people represented by their state.

On another level, Minister Buwayz sent written invitations to his counterparts in the Arab cordon states to hold a coordination meeting in Beirut on 27-28 August, before the opening of a new round of Arab-Israeli peace negotiations.

Foreign Ministry sources said participation in the next round of negotiations will not be discussed at the meeting because all parties have expressed willingness to attend. The sources said participants in the Beirut meeting will discuss the extent of progress that might be made on the various Arab-Israeli tracks of negotiations, coordination of Arab positions in the 11th round of talks, and the situation in southern Lebanon in light of Israel's repeated aggressions. Palestinian differences will also be discussed on the sideline of the meeting because they affect the Palestinian position.

Al-Hariri Returns to Beirut From Gulf Tour

NC2308194293 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri returned to Beirut this evening from Oman, the last stop in the first stage of his Arab tour. Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid left Beirut for Alexandria on board Prime Minister al-Hariri's private airplane.

SLA's Lahd Said To Seek Asylum in France

NC2408102393 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 0900 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] Citing its sources in Paris, the newspaper AL-SAFIR reports that agent Antoine Lahd, commander of the agent militia [South Lebanese Army, SLA], might have sought political asylum in France in the wake of the recent Israeli incursion into Lebanon.

The paper says that Lahd's family is currently in the French capital and that Lahd has requested an entry visa into France. The paper's sources noted, however, that the French Foreign Ministry has not given any details on this request. The sources added that Lahd, whose relations are currently at an ebb with a number of Israeli officials, has realized that any settlement involving south Lebanon will mean the end of his role.

Al-Hariri Receives Kuwaiti Amir at Border Point

NC2408104093 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri received Lebanon's guest Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah and the delegation accompanying him at al-Masna' [Lebanese-Syrian border point]. Information Minister Michel Samahah also was on hand to receive Shaykh al-Sabah. [passage omitted]

The Kuwaiti amir's motorcade left al-Masna' for the presidential palace in B'abda, where President Ilyas al-Hirawi and Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri will receive the amir. [passage omitted]

South Comes Under 'Intermittent' Israeli Shelling

NC2408065193 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] The Zionist enemy authorities continue to mass their military forces in the occupied part of the south amid daily attacks on the liberated areas, including artillery shelling and military reconnaissance flights.

Yesterday the occupation forces brought military reinforcements consisting of seven 155-mm guns, which were deployed in the al-Majidiyah area opposite the al-Biqa' Valley's eastern sector.

Kafr Rumman suburbs and its eastern hills have been coming under intermittent artillery fire since midnight last night accompanied by raking with heavy-caliber machine guns from the Zionist enemy positions on al-Suwayda' Hill.

Israeli enemy military aircraft flew over the south and Western al-Biqa' yesterday, carrying out mock raids over a number of cities and villages.

Amal Movement Claims Rocket Attack on Israeli Post

NC2408092593 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] The Amal Movement has announced that one of its groups carried out a rocket attack on an Israeli position on al-Tuhrah Hill at dawn today. According to the Amal statement, the attack lasted for approximately 15 minutes and the Israeli losses were not known.

The Israeli artillery retaliated by firing (?three) shells on Kafr Rumman town's eastern hills, accompanied by bursts of large- caliber machine guns from its position on 'Ali al-Tahir.

TV Station Ordered To Suspend News Programs

NC2408063593 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] Information Minister Michel Samahah received the Tele-Liban Board of Directors yesterday. Both sides discussed ways to regulate relations between the Information Ministry and the television management, according to the legal terms.

Minister Samahah conveyed a written memorandum to the television management instructing it to immediately suspend all news and political programs, including the Ghassan Tuwayni program. The minister asked management to get the minister's advance approval on the preparation, drafting, and production of all political programs. He asked the television management to set up a direct telephone line between the minister's office and the news desk for consultations and receiving the government's directives.

Minister Samahah said the supervision of Tele-Liban falls within his jurisdiction, adding that he will be firm in carrying out these powers, particularly the political aspect.

Kuwait's Jabir Arrives, Holds Talks With al-Asad

JN2308124393 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Excerpts] His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, amir of the State of Kuwait, arrived in Damascus at 1130 today on a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic.

President Hafiz al-Asad led those who received Shaykh Jabir at the Damascus International Airport. [passage omitted]

President Hafiz al-Asad and Shaykh Jabir al-Sabah held a meeting attended by Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Information Minister Dr. Muhammad Salman, and Syrian Ambassador to Kuwait Mustafa al-Haj 'Ali. From the Kuwaiti side, the talks were attended by the official delegation accompanying his highness the amir and Kuwait's ambassador in Damascus.

Talks Resume in Closed Meeting

JN2408061293 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1815 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Excerpt] President Hafiz al-Asad and Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, amir of the State of Kuwait, resumed their talks at 1830 today in a closed meeting held at the People's Palace. [passage omitted]

Amir's Visit Lauded

JN2408080793 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 24 Aug 93

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Summit and the Prevalence of Arab Solidarity," the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: No doubt, the meeting between leader Hafiz al-Asad and Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, amir of Kuwait, is particularly important in the current phase. This importance stems from the need to enhance joint Arab action in the interest of the Arab nation and in the service of its pan-Arab interests and just causes.

AL-THAWRAH adds: On the occasion of the Kuwaiti amir's visit to Damascus, we have to recall both Kuwait's role in promoting joint Arab action and Kuwait's great support for Arab development. The paper stresses that the Syrian-Kuwaiti relationship is one between two brothers. This relationship was based on pan-Arab zeal, and flourished on sincere cooperation in the interest of the Arabs.

AL-THAWRAH affirms that the Syrian-Kuwaiti relationship is preoccupied with championing pan-Arab causes and supporting one's brothers at times of ordeals and hardships. This has turned the Syrian-Kuwaiti relationship into a living model of sincere pan-Arab relations, the paper notes.

Khaddam: Peace Talks Will Not Lead to Reconciliation

NC2308114193 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Text] An Islamic Group delegation including Deputy Fathi Yakan, Deputy As'ad Harmush, Dr. 'Ali al-Shaykh 'Ammar, and engineer 'Abdallah Batti has visited Damascus and met with Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam. A statement released by the Islamic Group said that the delegation reviewed the Lebanese situation and emphasized the Islamic Group's position on the problem of Jewish occupation, resistance, and the peace talks in Washington.

The statement quoted Khaddam as saying that he stressed the importance of the resistance and that it must be supported because its actions are important and necessary and, consequently, it cannot be harassed or relinquished. Khaddam said that there is absolutely no contradiction between the Army deployment in south Lebanon and continued and growing resistance, noting that the recent operations by the resistance prove this.

On the Washington peace talks, the statement quoted Khaddam as saying that they will not lead to a reconciliation [sulh] with the Jews because of their limitless ambitions. He pointed out that the region and the world will witness bitter conflict between the defeatists and revolutionaries, which will lead to transformations that may reflect positively on the Arab and Islamic world. Khaddam called for solidarity among all sincere forces to help them shoulder their burdens.

Former Leader Salah Jadid Dies in Jail 19 Aug

JN2108085293 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 20 Aug 93 p 24

[Text] Amman—Major General Salah 'Izz-al-Din Jadid, former assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, died in Damascus yesterday, Thursday, of a heart attack. Jadid was also the Syrian Armed Forces chief of staff between 1963 and 1965 and a leader of 23 February movement. He was arrested on 16 November 1970 after Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad came to power.

Maj. Gen. Jadid, born in 1931, was married and had three sons and two daughters. He was considered a prisoner of conscience and his case was adopted by several humanitarian organizations, including Amnesty International. [On 20 and 21 August, obituaries carried in the Jordanian Arabic dailies AL-DUSTAR and AL-RA'Y state that Jadid died in a Syrian jail]

India

Rao Describes Visit to Bhutan as 'Very Useful'

BK2208091893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 22 Aug 93

[Text] The prime minister has described his visit to Bhutan as very useful and said decks have been cleared for further economic cooperation between the two countries. Mr. Narasimha Rao said he had extensive talks with the Bhutanese king on several areas of economic cooperation and other bilateral and international relations. He said there are no problem areas between the two countries. The forthcoming visit of the prime minister to China also figured in the talks. A senior official of the External Affairs Ministry said that India was also informed about Bhutan's dialogue with China on the boundary dispute. A Chinese delegation had visited Bhutan to discuss the issue in June. He said India's assistance to Bhutan during its Eighth Five-Year Plan and the setting up of more hydro projects also came up for discussion.

Earlier, Mr. Narasimha Rao was given a warm send off at Paro Airport and was seen off by King Jigme Singye Wangchuk and other dignitaries. Talking to newsmen at the airport, the Bhutanese king hoped that Mr. Rao's visit will go a long way in further cementing relations between the two countries. He said India and Bhutan have identical views on various issues and are an example of good neighborly relations in the region. About SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation], the king said that both the countries will aim to foster closer cooperation and understanding through it. Appreciating India's assistance in development activities of Bhutan, the king said various projects, including four power projects and one cement project, are being set up with India's assistance in the Himalayan kingdom.

India has donated telecommunications equipment worth 25 lakh rupees to the Government of Bhutan. This equipment has been installed at Paro in connection with the prime minister's visit to Bhutan. This has helped Bhutan to have communication services with the outside world.

BJP Seeks Probe of Pakistan Role in Madras Blast

BK2008132393 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 20 Aug 93

[Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] leader, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, has requested the prime minister to convene an all-party meeting to discuss electoral reforms. Talking to newsmen in Madras today, he said that it is communalism, not religion, that should be delinked from politics.

Regarding the bomb blast at the RSS [Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh—National Volunteer Corps] headquarters in Madras, Mr. Vajpayee said the CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation] should investigate it, as the involvement of the ISI [Interservices Intelligence] of Pakistan could not be ruled out.

Pakistan's Leaders Do Not Control Kashmir Policy

BK2208043893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 22 Aug 93

[Commentary by Renuka Reddy]

[Text] Pakistan's short-lived euphoria has come to a grinding halt with the United States renewing its warning to Islamabad to stop helping terrorists in India. In its obsession to separate Kashmir from India, Pakistan forgot that it cannot fool the world perpetually and hide its bloodstained hands from public gaze. Despite using all its might in open wars, its diplomatic skills in the international forums, and dirty tricks in low-intensity warfare, Pakistan not only failed in its aim but also suffered humiliations.

Unfortunately, it fails to see the reality that the people of India's border states like Punjab and Kashmir despite their grievances are happy with the democratic constitution of India. Nothing can explain it better than the fitting reply given by the people of Punjab to Pakistan's covert operations. As the prime minister said in his Independence Day address, Pakistan should realize that Kashmir is an integral part of India. It should favorably react to Mr. Narasimha Rao's offer of cooperation and friendship. The prime minister, in a clear and categorical statement, asked Pakistan to forget the thought of separating Kashmir from India. Putting an end to the subversive activities of Pakistan's Inter Services Intelligence [ISI] across the borders can form the starting point in a new era of cooperation between the two neighbors who share a common history and culture.

Pakistan's myopic view is preventing it from looking at the new forces which are rising on the horizon. It is the age of trade blocs and trade wars. Traditional rivals like France and Germany realized this and are today hand in hand in strengthening the European community. South Asia with its problems like poverty, illiteracy, and large population will only go backwards unless Pakistan reads the writing on the wall.

Many observers feel that the political leadership of Pakistan does not have a control on its Kashmir policy. One can only hope that the new leadership which is to assume power in Islamabad after the October elections will have the political will to override the opposition of the ISI. The leaders of the two leading parties, Ms. Benazir Bhutto and Mr. Nawaz Sharif, represent the post 1947 generation.

The two countries have had enough of wars and bloodshed in the last four decades. It is time now to work together for the betterment of the people of region.

PRC Said Keen To Acquire Country's Steel Technology

BK2208092493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 22 Aug 93

[Text] China is keen to have Indian technology of direct conversion of iron ore into steel. This was stated by the chairman of the Steel Authority of India, Mr. M.R.R. Nair, while addressing the Forum of Financial Correspondents in Bangalore today. He said the two sides explored the possibility of joint participation in international tenders on steel technology, application, and consultancy services with regard to World Bank projects and in third world countries.

Opposition Parties Against Sending Troops to Somalia

BK2108085493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 21 Aug 93

[Text] In the Lok Sabha, Janata Dal, BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party], and Left parties members have cautioned the government against sending Indian troops to join the UN peacekeeping force in Somalia. Raising the issue during the Zero Hour, they expressed the view that the UN forces are now engaged in peace enforcing duty, rather than peacekeeping in the troubled African country. The members alleged that this is serving the narrow interest of a western country.

Religion Suggested as Grounds for Banning Groups

BK2008162193 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 20 Aug 93

[Text] The joint select committee on the bills seeking to delink religion from politics has suggested omitting all other grounds except religion for banning any association. The committee, which submitted its report to both houses of parliament this evening, says that the provisions of the proposed Article 35-A in the Constitution to empower parliament to make law for banning associations should be confined to the ground of religion. Other grounds relating to race, place of birth, residence, language, caste, or community should be omitted.

The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] members of the committee gave dissenting note, saying that the actual intent of the bills is not to delink religion from politics but to delink BJP from politics. The note said the two bills are politically perverse and constitutionally questionable. The SJP [Samajwadi Janata Party], Telugu Desam, Janata Dal, and Indian Union Muslim League members of the committee, while broadly welcoming the bills, expressed reservations on certain provisions. These include empowering parliament to make laws to ban any association or organization.

The Lok Sabha witnessed procedural wrangles for about 20 minutes when the chairman of the committee, Mr. P.K. Bansal, presented the report. The parliamentary affairs minister, Mr. V.C. Shukla, said that the two bills will be introduced in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday [24 August] for passing and consideration. The voting on the bills will also be on the same day. He said this has been decided by the Business Advisory Committee.

The joint committee report also dealt with other issues, including secularism and deregistration of political parties. It said in the Constitution, the word secular has not been defined. The report said the new article proposed says that the state shall have equal respect for all religions. It said the provisions of the new article were discussed at length and the members felt that this should be further amplified. This will make clear that the state shall not profess, practice, or propagate any religion. The members felt that the ground of pre-poll disqualification should be confined to use of religion, including religious symbols. Some members said that disqualification of a candidate after his nomination but before the start of the poll might run counter to the provisions of Article 329 of the Constitution. Therefore, they proposed a new clause to make it clear that the provisions of Article 329 will apply subject to the provisions of the new articles proposed in the bills. The report further suggested omitting of the provisions of exclusive jurisdiction of the Supreme Court on matters arising under any law made by parliament on banning associations.

Addressing a news conference, the BJP president, Mr. L.K. Advani, said his party will oppose the bills both in parliament and outside.

Congress-I Rejects BJP Criticism

BK2308130293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Text] The Congress-I has refuted the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] criticism that the bills seeking to separate religion from politics violate the basic structure of the Constitution. Speaking to reporters in New Delhi today, the party spokesman, Mr. V.N. Gadgil, said such criticism coming from the BJP is rather strange. He said it is the BJP and the Sangh Pariwar [Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh and its allies] that destroyed the structure at Ayodhya, breaking all solemn promises made to parliament and the Supreme Court. Mr. Gadgil said the proposed bills ensure a secular choice to the voters as fight between secular and nonsecular parties becomes unequal and unfair.

The BJP has issued a three-line whip to its members to be present in both houses of parliament when the twin bills seeking to delink religion from politics are to be taken up tomorrow. The deputy leader of the party in the Lok Sabha, Mr. Jaswant Singh, said in New Delhi today that his party will demand a full-fledged debate on the bills lasting for at least two days. He said there is no need to rush the bills through within four hours as proposed now.

Supreme Court Rules on Election Commission's Power

BK2008043893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 20 Aug 93

[Text] The Supreme Court has made it clear that the Election Commission does not have unbridled power to postpone polls anywhere in the country because of disturbed conditions. Delivering the judgment on a writ petition challenging the Commission's power to postpone elections in Assam and Jammu and Kashmir due to unsettled conditions, a division bench comprising the chief justice, Mr. Justice M.M. Venkatchalaiah, and Mr. Justice S. Mohan said judicial review of such a decision will still be permissible. The judges said review is permissible because the Commission is a statutory body exercising functions affecting public rights.

Police Seize Explosives in Uttar Pradesh; One Arrested

BK2208160893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 22 Aug 93

[Text] In Uttar Pradesh, the police have seized nearly four quintals of explosives from the Cantonment railway station godown in Varanasi. One person has been arrested in this connection. Acting on a tip-off, the police cordoned off the area and seized the explosives stored in six wooden boxes.

Iran

Velayati: Tehran Ready To Expand Ties With UK

LD2308190493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Text] In an exclusive interview with our correspondent today, Foreign Minister Mr. Velayati refuted recent remarks made by U.S. State Department officials about convincing European countries to intensify political and economic pressures on the Islamic Republic of Iran. He said: The present conditions in the world are very different to the past. Today, the countries of the world seek to achieve independence for themselves. This was shown, for instance, during the G-7 summit. Washington's efforts, therefore, will be fruitless.

In reply to a question about future prospects for relations between Iran and the United States, the foreign minister of our country said: Our position is as before, and we will not retreat from our aspirations.

Furthermore, regarding the expansion of ties between the Islamic Republic of Iran and other Western countries, in particular Britain, Mr. Velayati said: At present, the two countries have expanded their ties up to the level of charge d'affaires. There are currently negotiations in progress to expand relations further.

Mr. Velayati then stressed the regional presence of Islamic Republic of Iran as a strong country. He said: Conditions today are very different to the past, and pressures brought about by psychological war cannot force the Islamic Republic of Iran to abandon its stances. He added: The Islamic Republic of Iran is ready to expand relations with Britain, on the basis of respect for each other's rights.

Commentaries Offer Analyses of U.S. Policies, Motives

Middle East Policy Termed 'Ambiguous'

NC2308093593 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 5 Aug 93 pp 1, 16

[Editorial: "Christopher and His Failed Mission"]

[Text] Warren Christopher has started his round of Middle East visits with Cairo. The objective of his tour is to reactivate U.S. diplomacy and reinvigorate the so-called Arab-Israeli peace talks, 10 rounds of which have not yielded any results.

Christopher's visit coincides with the halt to the week-long attacks by the Zionist regime on southern Lebanon. It appears that in carrying out his preplanned trip, Christopher has made some miscalculations. Evidence indicates that this diplomatic effort should be considered a failure.

The Democrats' Middle East policy is basically ambiguous and obscure, and U.S. diplomacy seems unable to find clear solutions and policies. When Christopher accepted the post of U.S. secretary of state, political experts predicted that in view of his experience he would be able to infuse a new dynamism in the Arab-Israeli talks and pave the way for attaining the longstanding desire of the Zionists for complete and durable political legitimacy in the Middle East.

However, the complexity of the situation, the vague and nebulous nature of Clinton's foreign and Middle East policies, the lack of an accurate assessment of forces and trends shaping the balance of events, and other occurrences have plunged the United States into a hopeless impasse.

Currently, the U.S. strategy for resolving disputes is based on three objectives:

1. To isolate those forces and individuals who are not ready to accept legitimacy for the Zionist regime and those who consider that the true solution to the Middle East problems is based on vindicating the rights wrested from the Palestinians.

2. To step up pressure on Arab countries allied with the United States by generating economic, social, and political chaos.

3. To change the political structure of the Middle East countries and divert their political systems to bring about the necessary economic and political reforms and changes.

The United States has been unsuccessful, as its political performance has encountered a dead end on all three fronts. Unilateral support of the Zionist regime has resulted in alienating public opinion in the Arab countries and in intensifying opposition to the United States and Israel.

The policy of various forces and countries opposed to the objectives and intentions of the Zionists has been confronted with total defeat due to a lack of U.S. strength. And efforts to pave the way for gradual reforms and changes in the political structure of the Arab countries have elicited varying reactions that have in practice embroiled the United States in a political crisis in its relations with these countries.

It, therefore, appears that in view of the potentially unpredictable nature of events, the United States is unable to take any further risks and continue its pressure. The only source of hope that the United States has is to step up its political, economic, and propagandistic pressure on countries that are considered U.S. allies and are willing to have normal relations with the Zionists.

Following the defeat of the 10th round of Arab-Israeli talks, U.S. and Israeli officials—to extricate themselves from this briar patch—resorted to their former policies. We can therefore consider the Zionist regime's operations last week as part of this calculated premeditated program.

The Zionists had predicted that by launching their extensive onslaught in southern Lebanon they would be able to inflict decisive blows on the Islamic Resistance in Lebanon and would thus be able to isolate the Palestinian intifadah. They would then be able to direct the obsequious Palestinian groups toward a final compromise and this would be considered proof that the Zionists had the upper hand. They would then drive home the message to the compromising Arabs that whenever Israel so wishes they will be vulnerable to danger and they should seek their salvation by accelerating the pace of the talks.

Events of the past week have proven that the Zionists made a major blunder in their calculations as the Islamic Resistance in Lebanon and the Palestinian combatants proved that they are able to tilt the balance to the detriment of the Zionist regime. Despite its extensive propaganda, Tel Aviv dreads a prolonged conflict and is not able to sustain the consequences of a long, drawn out battle.

Against such a backdrop, Christopher wishes to reap political capital from events that did not yield any positive results. Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, and the Palestinian groups are back where they started with regard to the talks. It appears that Christopher is returning to Washington empty-handed. It would be too far-fetched to believe that the United States could grasp reality and change its supportive stance of Israel, and in the capacity of a neutral observer, motivate the sides involved to change their demands. No one can count on the likelihood of such a situation.

The Zionists are in a weaker situation than in the past. The defeat of the operations in southern Lebanon have disgraced Tel Aviv's rulers. It appears that pressure in the Zionist circles will result in the United States and its secretary of state applying greater pressure on the Arab countries so that the former equilibrium is restored. This in itself will serve to further mar the prospects of the Arab-Israeli talks.

Christopher has arrived in the Middle East at a time when—contrary to all predictions—the Zionist regime has not been able to create conditions whereby it can persuade the Arabs to accept its demands. Even though among these countries there is the Egyptian regime, which has no problems with Israel and is ready to bestow greater privileges on it, convincing the governments of Lebanon and Syria will be an uphill task as public opinion in these countries does not permit such a situation.

The Palestinians ready to participate in these talks do not currently have the power to take a step forward. Despite their inclinations, this is an immutable fact. In this light, one can safely concede that Christopher's visit was a failure that was doomed even before it began.

Attempt To Undermine Iraq-UN Talks Seen

LD2008220293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 20 Aug 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Yesterday the chairman of the special committee on the annihilation of mass destructive arms has announced the UN-Iraq talks on accessing the Iraqi adherence of, and compliance with UN resolutions specially annihilating arsenals, will begin on 31 August.

It is well to mention that Iraq has made utilization of surveillance cameras which have been installed in two missile bases in that country by the UN experts, subject to the result of the talks and hopes that it will reduce or lift the economic sanctions mentioned in these resolutions in the future talks through proving its adherence to UN Security Council resolutions and also get permission to export oil.

Therefore one can say that Iraq's relations with the United Nations enjoyed understanding more than ever before and has apparently paved the way for further understandings.

In the meantime some political observers believe that if in the recent clash Iraq has not fired any missile and the U.S. fighters have attacked the Iraqi anti-air bases without any reason as Baghdad claims, one can consider these U.S. measures as an indication of Washington's willingness to continue tension with Baghdad or at least in the view the U.S. influence and the UN Security Council the attack can create disruption or a halt in the UN-Iraqi talks.

Motives in Detaining PRC Ship Detailed

NC2008171793 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES (INTERNATIONAL WEEKLY) in English 12 Aug 93 p 2

[Editorial: "U.S. Violations of Law Still on the Go"]

[Text] The Voice of America (VOA) Monday [9 August] night declared that American cruisers several days back intercepted a Chinese freight ship upon entrance to the Persian Gulf, claiming that it headed for Iran bearing material required for manufacturing chemical weapons. The Chinese Foreign Ministry, meantime, summoned the U.S. ambassador to Beijing Saturday and handed him a strongly-worded letter against "baseless U.S. accusations", terming the interception an "unjustifiable act of bullying".

American move against the Chinese freight ship is a bid in pursuit of several major objectives:

1) **Continuation of the U.S. hostile policy vis-a-vis Iran:** Failing to convince other industrial states of the Group of 7 (G-7) to go along with its bullying policies the U.S. now wants to make it known that all by itself, Washington will carry on with its policy of combatting Iran.

2) **Renewed instigation and intimidation of Iran's neighbors,** especially the southern littoral states of the Persian Gulf, as over the past months—despite U.S. publicity stunts—Iran's ties with these countries have been improving. Statements made by Kuwaiti Deputy Foreign Minister Majid al-Shahin, in his recent visit to Iran, to the effect that Iran-Kuwait ties are cordial attest to the betterment of Iran's relations with its neighbors.

3) **Implementation of its claimed "New World Order":** This is actually an attempt to sketch out a uni-superpower system. Doing so entails a series of tests by the U.S. to see what reactions the international circles and forums would show toward the U.S. acts of bullying and violations of law and order. Moreover, this serves as a serious warning to all European countries since the illegal American military presence in the strategic Persian Gulf region aims mainly at wielding control over Europe's energy and exports life vein.

'Hostility' Toward Islam, Sudan Condemned

LD2108220193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 21 Aug 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] The residents of Khartoum, capital of Sudan, yesterday staged a major protest rally against the hostile policy of America involving their country. This protest rally in the Sudanese capital denounced the U.S. move on including Sudan in the list of the so-called states supportive of terrorism.

Meanwhile the Sudanese foreign minister in a statement released in the same connection while condemning the U.S action announced a charge against Sudan on supporting terrorists was devoid of any convincing reason and was not based on reality.

The statement added by comparing this move with the savage and terroristic acts in Bosnia, the occupying Palestinian lands and Somalia, one can conclude that America wants to show its hostility and to inflect a blow on Islam and Sudan.

The U.S. move in putting Sudan on the list of the so-called countries which support terrorism in fact is yet another effort by Washington to further pressure the Khartoum government.

Over the past six months the America's regional policy in the horn of Africa and north Africa has been in the process of reorganisation. Intervention in Somalia in the framework of the UN peace keeping forces followed by a plan on setting up the safe region in south Sudan on the pretext of providing relief aid to the famine stricken people of that region constitute a part of this same new policy of the White House.

In the midst accusing Sudan of backing Islamic fundamentalism and the U.S. official's support for the rebels in south Sudan in general point to adoption of hostile policy by America against Khartoum.

In the meantime political observers believe that suspension of Sudan's membership in the International Monetary Fund denotes another aspect of this same policy. Political circles in the region think that this decision prior to focusing on economic aspects has been adopted exclusively on political motivations.

Therefore we observe that decisions which are well coordinated and planed are being adopted directly and indirectly against Khartoum and the region. These decisions which are solely aimed at isolating the Sudanese government and forcing it into accepting U.S. policy in the region can put the Khartoum government in a difficult situation.

For this reason in consideration of the faked U.S. charges on Khartoum's military connection with General Aided in Somalia and the issue of civil war in south Sudan with due regard to the upper hand of the government troops in that region, political experts do not rule out the probability of a U.S. military operation against Sudan.

Such an aggression which is quiet evident repugnant to the international norms and Sudanese national sovereignty can not be disregarded by international circles.

However experience of past years has shown that such measures by Washington are indicative of the policies being pursued by international circles, specially the security council.

New World Order Seen Promoting Aggression Against Muslims

NC2008172493 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 16 Aug 93 p 2

[Editorial: "Encouraging Aggression"]

[Text] Since the breakdown of the former Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union, two Muslim countries i.e. Azerbaijan in Central Asia and Bosnia-Herzegovina in the Balkans, have been the targets of naked aggressions.

As independent countries and members of the United Nations, both have sought the assistance of the international community and in particular the U.N. to use their political, economic and if necessary military means to stop aggression. Alas to this date, there has not been any effective measure by the world community to stop the aggressive instincts of some.

The absence of a firm response similar to the way the international community reacted to Saddam Husayn following his invasion of Kuwait, vis-a-vis the Serbian and Armenian attacks against Muslims have even encouraged the aggressors to continue their assaults and the inhumane genocidal tactics. The crimes and the expansionist goals of the Serbs and the Armenians are being indirectly supported by both the West and Russia. In both instances bloody ethnic cleansing methods, under the pretext of reversing occupation are being carried out.

What the Serbs and Armenians are doing now, is roughly the same strategy used by the Zionists when they began to occupy Palestine: Using brute military to force the ethnic Arabs out to occupy their lands by emigrant Jews. [sentence as published] Much of the same tactic is being used now. Lands belonging to hundreds of thousands of displaced Bosnian and Azeri refugees will soon be completely occupied by the Serbs and Armenians.

In this way after a ceasefire, like in the case of Palestinians, the nations victimized will have no choice but to continue the imposed wars. This means suffering and continuing to fight enemies armed to the teeth and supported by all the arrogant powers. Promoting aggression against the Muslim people has become part of the so-called "new world order" scenario.

Kuwaiti Ambassador Discusses Ties with Ministers

LD2308163793 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1508 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Text] Tehran, 23 Aug (KUNA)—State of Kuwait Ambassador Fawzi 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Jasim met Iranian Interior Minister 'Ali Mohammed Besharati here today and discussed bilateral relations with him.

Ambassador al-Jasim informed KUNA that Minister Besharati expressed his satisfaction with the development of relations between his country and the State of Kuwait.

Al-Jasim pointed out that the discussions during the meeting also covered the issue of Kuwaiti fishing boats detained by the Iranian navy which Iran had, last week, officially promised to release.

Al-Jasim also met the Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam, Iranian deputy foreign minister for Arab and African Affairs, within the context of his farewell visit to Iranian high-ranking officials.

The official tour of duty of al-Jasim as ambassador of the State of Kuwait to the Islamic Republic of Iran is expected to end soon.

Commentary Praises Lebanese Resistance Operations

NC2208071093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 21 Aug 93

[Commentary by News Commentaries Group]

[Text] The dauntless operations of the Islamic Resistance against the Zionist usurpers in southern Lebanon that resulted in the killing of nine Zionist soldiers and the wounding of some others has once again manifested the ironclad determination of the Lebanese Muslim revolutionaries in continuing their struggle against the Zionist occupationists.

The Islamic Resistance's reaction to the Zionist regime and the bombing of the cities of Ba'labakk and Janta was displayed in attacks on Zionist forces in southern Lebanon that resulted in the killing of two Zionist soldiers. These attacks proved the abilities and the precise and swift planning of the Islamic Resistance in the riposte it dealt to the Zionist regime for its aggression.

The remarks by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin on his regime's reaction to the recent operations of the Islamic Resistance indicating that it will not embark on an extensive military attack similar to the one last week reflects the following realities:

First, by such utterances, Rabin has indirectly admitted that the extensive military operations by the Zionist regime against the cities and villages and the oppressed Lebanese people did not yield results and it would be futile to repeat them.

Second, the Zionist regime is facing a crisis regarding its decisionmaking and the approach to adopt toward the Islamic Resistance. Right from the outset, the Zionist regime has launched basic and so-called deterrent military operations against the Arab countries and the Palestinian organizations. It has thus been able to change their behavior in accordance with its own wishes and to impose specific rules of the game on them.

This trend was the precursor to the so-called current Arab-Israeli talks. However, this approach on the part of the Zionist regime toward the Islamic Resistance in southern Lebanon and inside occupied Palestine has failed to achieve the desired results because of the martyr-seeking and self-sacrificing nature of the Islamic forces. On the contrary, it has served to further incite these people, who are enamored of martyrdom.

In the wake of the Zionist regime's aggression in Lebanon a few weeks ago, which killed 120 martyrs and wounded hundreds of others, destroying scores of villages and reducing homes to rubble, most of the political experts were convinced that the Islamic Resistance would curtail its anti-Zionist operations or suspend them temporarily. Some of these experts believed that the halt to the Zionist regime's aggressive operations against Lebanon was due to some direct or indirect agreement with Hizballah. However, the latest operations by the Islamic Resistance prove that the Islamist movement is a phenomenon that is not fully understood by the regional politicians and there is no real awareness of its massive potential. [preceding word in English].

The expressions of regret and sympathy by some Western leaders and international organizations on the killing of nine Zionist soldiers are unacceptable to the regional Muslims. The silence of such circles at the martyrdom of 125 Lebanese and wounding of hundreds of others in the aggressive Zionist attacks a few weeks ago, while disregarding the fact that the Zionist soldiers were killed on Lebanese territory, has heightened the fury of the regional Muslims against the hostile attitude of the West.

Foreign Ministry Denies Claims of Links With Turkish Kurds

LD2308164993 Tehran IRNA in English 1626 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 23, IRNA—Iran's Foreign Ministry today categorically rejected Turkish press allegations that there was a link between Iran and Turkish Kurds now fighting government troops in that country.

"Such moves means attempting to cover one's weakness and internal problems by attribiting them to other countries," Foreign Ministry spokesman Mahmud Mohammadi said.

He expressed regret that such "false claims" are being timed with the start of the 6th Irano-Turkish joint security commission.

A Turkish delegation arrived here Monday evening to participate in the session which will focus on border and security problems between the two countries.

Commentary on Turkey's 'New Approach' on Iraq

NC2208182393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Turkish 1630 GMT 17 Aug 93

[Unattributed commentary: "A Glance at Turkey's New Approach on Iraq"]

[Text] Judging by the reports we have received, Turkish officials have urged their Western counterparts to agree to lift the economic embargo on Iraq during the past few weeks. In fact, Prime Minister Tansu Ciller and Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin contacted U.S. officials to discuss the negative effects of the embargo on Turkey last week. Hikmet Cetin held talks with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and proposed that the economic embargo on Iraq be lifted. He also informed Christopher that 7,200,000 barrels of oil have been blocked in the pipeline between Karkuk and Yumurtalik for three years now and that Turkey has incurred a daily loss of some $750,000—that is, approximately 9 billion Turkish lira—because it has not able to use that oil.

Meanwhile, Baghdad has been trying to normalize its relations with Ankara in parallel with the effort Turkey has made to restore its trade relations with Iraq. Iraq's Ambassador to Turkey Rafi' Dahham Mujjawil al-Tikriti has said that Baghdad has conveyed messages to the Turkish officials that contained various proposals for the improvement of bilateral relations between the two countries. The messages proposed that Turkey should make initiatives to have the economic embargo on Iraq lifted, Iraq should be allowed to use the oil in the pipeline between the two countries, the Kurdish problem should be resolved with the participation of all the countries concerned, and the relations between Turkey and Iraq should be unconditionally normalized.

According to political observers, a possible change in Turkey's approach on Iraq is important from various angles. Considering Iraq's present situation and military structure, many of the Turkish politicians are convinced that that country cannot be regarded as a threat to Turkey's southern border. That is a point in favor of the establishment of normal relations between Baghdad and Ankara. Meanwhile, considering Turkey's economic and trade relations, Ankara is convinced that it can reactivate its disorderly economy by establishing relations with Baghdad. Considering the existing conditions and the economic problems in Iraq, Ankara hopes to make significant profit by importing cheap oil from that country. In addition, Turkey hopes that Turkish contracting firms and private sector companies will actively participate in the reconstruction of Iraq.

Furthermore, many political observers believe that the common wish of Ankara and Baghdad to suppress the opposition Kurdish militants is another reason for Turkey's recent move to restore its relations with Iraq. In fact, Turkish newspapers have recently reported that the representatives of several political parties in Turkey have attended the 11th Congress of the Kurdistan Democratic Party in Iraq, which was recently held in Irbil. The participation of the representatives of several political parties in Turkey in that congress for the first time explains the reason for the special Importance Ankara attaches to matters related to Iraq. The attendance of several Kurdish Workers Party representatives in that congress has made the matter more important.

Several observers believe that Ankara's wish to support Baghdad and have the economic embargo against Iraq lifted is also aimed at helping that country strengthen its position against the Kurdish opposition movements. Obviously, the strengthening of Iraq will help Ankara reduce its military operations against the Kurdish militants in Turkey and in northern Iraq.

Roundtable Views UN Resolution Ending Iran-Iraq War

LD2008042893 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1600 GMT 19 Aug 93

["Political Roundtable" with Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and unidentified correspondent—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Zarif] There are several points of UN Resolution 598 which have not been implemented completely and which I point out. The first point regards the consequences of aggression. The secretary general, according to Article 6 of Resolution 598, announced that Iraq was responsible for war and was the aggressor. From the viewpoint of international law aggression has its consequences and the Iraqi Government is responsible for the consequences of the aggression.

The other point which has not yet been implemented regards the second part of Article 7 of the resolution on the country's reconstruction. The first part of Article 7—discussing the issue of estimating the cost of damages—has been put forward by the UN and an estimate has been made and the Iranian damage is clear. That is the direct damage of the war. However, the second part needs international coordination and political will, which unfortunately we have not witnessed. The new UN secretary general has taken an executive step but no practical step has been taken yet. Of course, the Islamic Republic is following up the issue in international organizations.

The other important discussion, set up in Resolution 598 on the insistence of the Islamic Republic of Iran, were Articles 5 and 8 of the resolution. Article 5 calls on third parties to refrain from actions intensifying tension. This article referred to the presence of foreign forces in the Persian Gulf and the region. Following the acceptance of the resolution by the two sides and the implementation of the cease-fire, the former secretary general in a letter to all UN members announced that they had to respect Article 5 of the resolution and refrain from actions that would intensify tension in the Persian Gulf region. Unfortunately, the implementation of Article 5 has been left at this level and foreign forces who are the main causes of tension in the region remain in the area. Therefore, a part of Article 5 of Resolution 598 has been left unimplemented.

Another point of Resolution 598 which has not been implemented fully is Article 8 of Resolution 598 on regional security arrangements. You remember that at a time when Iraq and its then ally, the United States, wanted to create tension in the situation of the Persian Gulf region, the Islamic Republic of Iran, taking into account the importance of security in the Persian Gulf, in a letter to the secretary general called on him to arrange limiting the war between Iran and Iraq, to stop its spread to the Persian Gulf, and to stop the involvement of the Persian Gulf in the war. The letter by the Islamic Republic of Iran became the foundation for Article 8 of Resolution 598. Since adopting Resolution 598 and since the acceptance of the resolution by the two sides and the implementation of the cease-fire, we have continuously wished for the establishment of a collective security arrangement in the Persian Gulf, the basis of which is mutual respect for international law, sovereignty of the regional countries, and the non-presence of foreigners in the Persian Gulf region. The principles which the Islamic Republic of Iran has clearly and repeatedly called for with the implementation of Article 8 are in accordance with international rights and are needed for the realization of stability and security in the extremely important Persian Gulf region. These are acceptable by the United Nations and the international community but unfortunately the United States and some Western countries wish to use tension-creating relations in the Persian Gulf towards their short-term interests and therefore this important article of Resolution 598 has not been implemented. We have repeatedly said that if they had allowed the implementation of Article 8 of Resolution 598, if they had not wavered so much in determining the aggressor, there would not have been the possibility of an Iraqi offensive against Kuwait. This is due to the fact that if there is a security arrangement between the countries of a region as well as good-neighborly relations, and if it is clear that there are consequences for creation of tension and aggression, the aggressive country would not aggress again. But unfortunately, this article has not been implemented and the policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran is to work towards the implementation of Article 8 of Resolution 598 and the creation of security arrangement with the countries of the region and on the basis on mutual trust and without the need for the presence of foreign forces.

[Correspondent] In this section I have a question regarding two issues. One is about the installation of markers [mile-gozari] and whether it has been completed or not. Recently the question of dredging the Arvand Rud River was raised. According to the 1975 agreement this must be carried out with the agreement of the two sides. Has Iraq obtained Iran's agreement on this or not?

[Zarif] [passage omitted] Regarding the installation of markers: On the basis of the 1975 agreement markers were installed in border areas. The third party was informed and approved the action and agreements have been signed. But because of war conditions and troop movement situation, some of those markers have probably been destroyed and there is a need for them to be reinstalled according to plans—aerial plans—remaining from that time. Unfortunately this stage has not been implemented.

Another related issue—related because it has to be implemented according to the 1975 agreement—is the issue of dredging the Arvand River. One of the illegitimate demands by Iraq, which were the cause of bringing about the war at the beginning, was that Iraq was always insisting on utilizing methods which would put a question mark over the 1975 agreement. As you know Iraq raised the issue of dredging of the Arvand River outside the 1975 agreement as one of the conditions for the realization of the cease-fire, and thus as one of the instruments to be established before any withdrawal. But the Islamic Republic of Iran stood up to Iraq's demand and prevented it; and by God's grace the withdrawal was realized without any concessions.

The dredging of the Arvand Rud River is the same. We are interested in the reconstruction of Khorramshahr and other areas and the dredging of the Arvand Rud River must be carried out on the basis of the criteria governing the two countries' relations—that is the same 1975 agreement—for the benefit of the two countries. But on the one hand there might be obstacles on the basis of the embargo resolutions which were adopted after the Kuwaiti crisis and on the other hand we still have not seen any readiness on the Iraqi side to embark on this task. Therefore our assessments in the first instance and action in the second instance will continue.

[Correspondent] Since the acceptance of the resolution and the cease-fire, relations between Iran and Iraq have had their ups and downs. Delegations have traveled to the two sides. What is the state of relations between the two countries?

[Zarif] The Islamic Republic of Iran's general policy is to improve and strengthen relations with all neighbors. We think this policy is necessary for the region and this policy is dominant with regard to the Asian republics of the former Soviet Union as well as Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Turkey, and the littoral states of the Persian Gulf. We follow the same policy with regard to Iraq. That is the improvement of relations with neighbors as the general wish of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

This has failed, however, to be realized due to the behavior of the Iraqi Government, for various reasons, the most important of which is the issue of POWs—which we will discuss later. Unfortunately there are still tensions and differences in the relations between the two countries. We hope that these differences will be solved towards the establishment of stability in the region. Of course the treatment of the Iraqi people by its government, in particular in southern Iraq, which has made the homeless people of the south come towards the Islamic Republic of Iran and towards our border in order to seek refuge in the Islamic Republic, are definitely factors which will have a negative effect on our relations with Iraq and which will hinder progress of relations. Presently we have political relations with Iraq. Embassies have been reopened and are half active.

[Correspondent] What are the discussions regarding the travel of the two countries citizens and visits to the holy places?

[Zarif] Traveling by the citizens of the two countries, in particular visits to the holy places of Iraq as well as the Iraqi people visiting the holy shrine of the eight Imam—whose day of martyrdom is today—are of interest to the Islamic Republic of Iran and these issues are significant issues which will be discussed in the process of solving difficulties between the two countries.

[Correspondent] We will not keep you waiting any longer for the POW issue and ask the deputy foreign minister for international affairs to speak about it as to what stage it is at and any elaboration on that.

[Zarif] The release of the POWs is one of the sections of Resolution 598. It is one of the principles of international law. According to that the warring parties must release all POWs on ending their active hostilities. Through the efforts made and despite the policies of the Iraqi Government, so far, by the grace of God, nearly 40,000 Iranian POWs have returned home and are with their families.

We believe, and there are indications to that effect, that the Iraqi Government is still holding a significant number of our brethren and combatants in Iraq. In some cases we have put forward documents and powerful proof regarding several hundred cases, which have been accepted by the Red Cross as well. In some cases negotiations are still going on.

The issue of the POWs—as I said before—is one of the main issues concerning Iran and Iraq relations. The Foreign Ministry—and the Islamic Republic of Iran—have used various bilateral and international methods generally, to ensure the status of all of our POWs becomes clear and for all those POWs who wish to be returned home to return to the Islamic Republic of Iran. God willing, there will be some action in the next few months which has been planned with the international community, with the Red Cross, and with the Iraqi Government on a bilateral basis. We hope that bears positive results.

[Correspondent] We have seen that several days ago more than 8,000 documents regarding the POWs were submitted to Iraqi officials. Is there any progress in this?

[Zarif] We gathered documents and various statements concerning those beloved Iranian combatants who we believe are somehow in Iraq. Those documents were been handed to the Red Cross and Iraq maybe more than six months ago. Negotiations are still continuing for determining the status of those individuals and the unconditional return of those who are in Iraq.

[Correspondent] God willing! Once again thank you for taking part in the program.

[Zarif] You are welcome. I thank you.

Afghan Prime Minister Departs; Habibi Summarizes Talks

LD2108105793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 21 Aug 93

[Announcer] Afghan Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar ended his four-day visit to Iran, and after holding talks with the Islamic Republic of Iran's authorities, left Tehran for Saudi Arabia this afternoon. He was seen off at the airport by First Vice President Habibi.

According to a joint statement, issued at the end of the visit, bilateral ties, Afghanistan's internal situation, settlement of the issue of Afghan refugees in Iran, and the current regional situation were the main topics of talks between the Afghan prime minister, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and First Vice President Habibi. During the talks, the Afghan and Iranian Governments declared their wish and readiness to cooperate in the fields of road construction, road repairs in Afghanistan, a partnership in gas and oil exploration and production, and cooperation in the health and treatment fields. The statement also refers to the setting up of a joint commission for combating the growth and trafficking of narcotic drugs.

In the course of seeing Hekmatyar off, First Vice President Habibi, spoke to our correspondent on his talks with the Afghan prime minister.

[Begin Habibi recording] We came to the conclusion that in order to concentrate activities, it is fitting to set up a joint commission under the supervision of a minister from Iran and one from Afghanistan. We have proposed the minister of construction jihad. Mr. Hekmatyar will be proposing his minister [later] for the many and diverse tasks that must be carried out in Afghanistan. [sentence as heard]

In the field of higher education it was agreed that several long-term bursaries be put at the disposal of our Afghan brethren and, especially in the field of short-term education, a rather extensive program was envisaged so that in various fields—political and diplomatic, as well as health and treatment fields—short-term and useful education is offered to our Afghan brethren. God willing those will be effective for the tasks that must be carried out in Afghanistan. One of the tasks that has been decided on is the setting up of Health Centers [khanehay-e behdasht] in various areas of Afghanistan, because one of the important tasks that must be carried out during this period concerns issues of general health.

In the field of roads it was decided that studies be carried out. We have a transit agreement from the past that we decided to review and complete, and facilities to be added to it. Also, it was decided that in the first phase, visas for diplomatic and service passports be abolished. In practice that will allow for easier and more travel by officials.

There are other programs in the economic field. God willing, they will be implemented as promised. Altogether, this is an extensive program which, God willing, we must carry out step by step. We hope that everyday our brethren and friends in Afghanistan be more successful than the day before. [end recording]

Swift Armenian Withdrawal From Azerbaijan Urged

NC2208102793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 22 Aug 93

[Commentary by News Commentaries Group]

[Text] As you have heard in the news, the Azerbaijani Defense Ministry in Baku announced that its forces had repulsed Armenian attacks in Dzhebrail and Fizuli and forced them to retreat from these cities. Despite these reports, the shelling of these areas continues and is serving to increase the number of homeless refugees and those fleeing their homes to save their lives.

Despite the intense condemnation of the Armenian attacks on Azerbaijani territory by other countries and international organizations, including the United Nations, the aggressive actions of the Armenian forces continue in utter disregard for international norms and the recent Security Council resolutions.

Political observers stress that the military operations of the Armenian forces alongside the armed forces of Nagorno-Karabakh, the killing of civilians, and the occupation of the territory of the independent country of Azerbaijan will never ensure any noteworthy political gains.

These actions will not only culminate in the undermining and corroding of the political, military, and economic bases of the two countries, they will also continually reduce the possibility of pursuing an amicable and wise solution to the dispute. It is obvious that the aggressors will not be able to achieve any of their political aims by military means. Any further delay in conforming to international norms and laws and implementing Security Council Resolutions 822 and 853 can result in nothing but devastation, homelessness, and lost opportunities for restoring peace.

In view of the fact that continued military attacks have in practice blocked all avenues for an amicable solution to the dispute, the Armenian forces cannot expect durable political gains if they do not withdraw completely to their positions and do not implement the cease-fire regulations.

The Islamic Republic of Iran—which from the start of the recent aggressive operations by the Armenian forces has adopted an overt stance vehemently denouncing these actions—calls for the immediate cessation of operations and an unconditional and swift exit of all Armenian forces from the occupied areas of Azerbaijan.

The conflagration of war is being fanned daily and there is a serious danger of the proliferation of the conflict or its metamorphosis into a war of attrition. The efforts by other countries—as well as forces not located in the region that are keeping the war flames alight to reap political capital and enhance their own influence in the region—should be neutralized by vigilance on the part of the warring sides and their abstention from continued military operations.

In this regard, Iran has always been willing to participate in peace-seeking efforts and stresses that regional countries should strive to attain an honorable and just peace.

Velayati Meets Japanese Foreign Ministry Director General

LD2308205693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Text] Mr. (Nakar Yasoto), the political director-general of the Japanese Foreign Ministry, met Mr. Velayati, foreign affairs minister of our country, on Monday [23 August] afternoon.

In the meeting, the two sides considered relations between the two countries as good, and called for further expansion of bilateral ties.

In addition, various international issues, including the crucial role of the Islamic Republic of Iran in safeguarding the security of the Persian Gulf, were discussed.

Irish Parliament Speaker Arrives for Week-Long Visit

Greeted at Airport 22 Aug

LD2208105593 Tehran IRNA in English 0828 GMT 22 Aug 93

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 22, (IRNA)—Irish Parliament speaker Sean Triacy arrived here Sunday [22 August] morning on a week-long visit and was greeted at Mehrabad airport by a number of Iranian parliamentarians.

Triacy, who is heading a parliamantary delegation, said upon his arrival that his visit was aimed at strengthening and further expansion of Iran-Ireland parliamentary relations.

The Irish official described current trend of Tehran-Dublin relations as proper and worthy.

While here, the Irish delegation which comprises some members of the Irish Labour and Republican Parties, will confer with senior Iranian officials and inspect historical monuments in the ancient cities of Isfahan and Shiraz.

Meets With Judiciary Head

LD2308160393 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Text] Speaker of Ireland's Parliament Mr. Sean Triacy, who is currently in Tehran on an official visit, met Mr. Mohammad Yazdi, the head of judiciary power, this afternoon.

In the meeting Mr. Yazdi described bilateral political, economic, and cultural relations as good, and called for cooperation between the two countries in judicial matters. Furthermore, he referred to the crisis in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and expressed regret at the silence of international forums toward the atrocities in that country.

Discusses Bosnia 'Tragedy' With Velayati

LD2308202793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Text] In a meeting on Monday [23 August] afternoon between Mr. Sean Triacy, the Speaker of Ireland's parliament, and Mr. Velayati, our country's foreign affairs minister, bilateral issues and the critical situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina were discussed.

In the meeting the Irish parliament speaker considered the Bosnian issue as a tragedy and a major blow to the civilized world. He said: Unfortunately, so far, mediators in the Bosnian war have not been able to find a suitable solution to this problem. He then called for more contacts between the officials of the two countries for the purpose of resolving the Bosnian problem.

Mr. Velayati, in turn, referred to the efforts of Islamic countries, in particular, within the framework of the Islamic Conference Organization. He said: Although Islamic countries announced their readiness to sent peacekeeping forces to Bosnia, some major powers opposed the dispatch of forces by Iran and Turkey.

The foreign affairs minister added: If the tragedy in Bosnia does not end soon, the clashes in that country, which were motivated by political factors, will be transformed into a dangerous religious war.

In the meeting, furthermore, emphasis was placed on the necessity for expanding relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Ireland.

Habibi Addresses Diplomatic Mission Chiefs' Seminar

LD2308091293 Tehran IRNA in English 0851 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 23, IRNA—First Vice-President Hassan Habibi here Monday [23 August] called on the Iranian diplomatic missions abroad to employ political and economic means to safeguard interests of the Islamic Republic of Iran in foreign countries.

Habibi made the remark in his inaugural speech which opened the 10-day seminar of heads of Iranian diplomatic missions abroad.

Addressing the participants, he underscored the responsibility of diplomatic missions to preserve Islamic Republic's aspirations and values throughout the world.

He also underlined training of skilled and experienced manpower as a major policy in the cultural program of the country's development plan.

The seminar is attended by more than 130 heads of Iranian missions abroad.

Velayati Delivers Speech

LD2308182093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Text] The seminar of heads of Iranian diplomatic missions abroad was opened today in Tehran with an address by Vice President Habibi.

The seminar continued with a speech delivered by Foreign Affairs Minister Mr. Velayati. He referred to the rapid developments in international affairs, and stressed the necessity for closer communication and exchange of ideas for the purpose of adopting a comprehensive and cohesive policy to appear on the international stage; a policy which should be in line with the principles of the Islamic revolution and the guidelines provided by the officials of the system.

The foreign affairs minister of our country also called for a greater degree of coordination among executive organs involved with international affairs so as to devise a harmonious policy in line with the interests of the Islamic Republic of Iran's system.

Islamic Culture and Guidance Minister Mr. Larijani also addressed the seminar. He referred to the present conditions of the world following the end of the Cold War, and the discrediting of communism. He then described changes in the geopolitical and ideological structure of the world.

Daily Supports Integration of Women Into Cabinet

LD2208110493 Tehran IRNA in English 0919 GMT 22 Aug 93

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 22, (IRNA)—A morning daily here Sunday [22 August] commented over the composition of the new cabinet and said for a cabinet to be genuinely representative, it should reflect all interests and sections of society.

"So far political representation of women has been grossly inadequate and it is only fair that Iranian women be given some representation even if not in proportion to their number," wrote 'KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL'.

The article stressed that Iranian women were not lagging in any way behind their counterparts in the world over, rather they had made their presence felt in all important areas and proved they were capable of rising to challenges.

The daily commented over president's recent remarks while addressing a group of sportswomen, saying that Iranian women should play a vital role in society and should have a bigger share in social, political, cultural, economic and educational fields.

"The president had a good opportunity to put his words into action, just a few days earlier during the formation of the cabinet. By alloting a few berths to women in the government, he would not only have set a good precedent and earned more appreciation from our womenfolk, who constitute half the Iranian population, but also shown that he is truly a champion of women's cause."

Nevertheless, it added, "it's not too late even now, because there is still one portfolio left vacant. Why not appoint a woman to handle the important Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs?".

The daily concluded by saying that a Ministry of Women's Developments or Women's Affairs should be established "because women's problems are unique and need special attention... a mere advisory position is not enough. We need a ministry, headed by a woman, to take political decisions in matters which concern women, because women know best what is in their interest."

Government Encouraged To Tackle Economic Problems

NC2008173893 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 11 Aug 93 p 2

[Editorial: "Perpetuation of the Past Economic-Industrial Policies"]

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's list of cabinet members sent to the Majles for a vote of confidence evinces little reshuffling, especially in regard to the ministers of industries and economy, heralding the perpetuation of the government's economic policies and formulated plans whose implementation is emphasized with the new cabinet. Such mode of thought and practice is acceptable and exigent from multifarious dimensions and culminates in enhanced efficiency and in completion of the first plan's infrastructural projects due to the ministers' experience and knowledge of the country's available facilities and plans. A total reshuffling of the cabinet will by far give rise to setbacks. But this reshuffling has taken place through the President's knowledge of the ministers' performance during their tenures of office.

In other words, the government and ministers' performance can to a large extent be termed "successful." The future of the government will, therefore, be rosy. But as for the economic liberalization policy and the hurdles along its way, no decisive measure has as yet been taken, thus making economic growth and development sluggish. It is incumbent on the new cabinet members to lift these problems. For instance, the privatization policy has not as yet found its true place in the country and has not been justified for all and sundry. In regard to privatization, we should abstain from going to extremes. Laws pertaining to economic enterprises are in some cases inadequate. Foreign investment and its prerequisites have not been clearly determined and there are pros and cons in regard to it. There are certain problems involved in drawing up foreign contracts and soundly transferring technical knowhow. More importantly, in some cases while we have adopted a favorable policy, the discordant performance of some executive officials has given way to practical tangles. Still research and research budget are not compatible with the role it plays in development. As yet the relative advantages are not specified in the country's production and exports....

Surely, we are of the view that with the limitations they have faced the government and the ministers have performed optimally and the tangles, too, can be removed with a little effort. Granting due consideration to the infrastructural investments and activities enmeshed in the first plan, we should implement the second 5-year plan more precisely and with sounder planning. In place of optimism or pessimism, we should take recourse to realism. In this case, we can assume a favorable station among the developing countries in view of the world's economic conditions. After getting the confidence votes from Majles, the ministers of economy and industries should strengthen the positive points of their policies and strive to eliminate the problems as well. In view of the President's insight and in regard to the fact that the critical post-war years are over, it is hoped that in future we could witness the country's speedy growth and development.

Pakistan

Election Commission Announces Schedule

BK2008163693 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 20 Aug 93

[Text] The Election Commission has announced the schedule for national and provincial assemblies elections. Announcing it over radio and television network this evening, the chief election commissioner, Mr. Justice Retired Nayimuddin, said nomination papers for national assembly elections would be received from Monday [23 August] up to the 29th of this month while those of provincial assemblies from Tuesday up to the 30th of this month. Scrutiny for National Assembly nominations will be held on the 30th of this month and the 1st of next month. Appeals against acceptance or rejection of papers can be filed up to the 5th of September and these appeals will be disposed of by the 12th of September. Last day for withdrawal of nomination papers for National Assembly elections is the 13th of next month and final list of candidates for the National Assembly elections will be published on the 14th of next month. Scrutiny of nomination papers for provincial assembly seats will be held on the 1st and 2d of next month. Appeals can be filed against acceptance or rejection of nomination papers for provincial assembly seats up to the 7th of next month. Decisions on appeals will be announced up to the 13th of next month. Last date for withdrawal of nomination papers is the 14th while the final list of candidates for provincial assmblies would be published on the 15th of next month.

The chief election commissioner said elections would be conducted by the judiciary while armed forces would provide necessary cooperation on polling days in maintaining law and order. He said polling will begin at 0730 [0230 GMT] and would continue without any break till 1730. After the polling is over, ballot boxes would be opened in the presence of candidates, their agents, and journalists. Counting would be made then and there. After the counting is over, the presiding officers of the polling stations would announce the results of the polling stations and provide certified copy of the votes to the candidates. Similarly, the returning officers would compile the results of their areas and announce the results locally. At the national level, the Election Commission would announce the results of all the constituencies through radio, televsion, and the press.

The Election Commission has announced the procedure for allocation of symbols and asked the political parties to submit their applications for allocation of symbols by the 30th of this month. The commission has made it clear that telegraphic request for symbols and those applications already filed will not be entertained. The parties will have to file applications afresh. The commission has asked the political parties that the applications for symbols should contain the list of symbols applied for in order of preference as well as information of symbols alloted to them during the general elections in 1988 and 1990. The election manifesto of the party should also be attached with the application.

PML Spokesman Criticizes Prime Minister's Economic Plan

BK2208092593 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 20 Aug 93 p 1

[Text] Islamabad—A spokesman of the Pakistan Muslim League (Nawas) has criticised "the increase in the cost of essential commodities like edible oil, wheat, power and gas."

Commenting on the caretaker Prime Minister's address to the Nation, He said, these measures would badly affect the poor masses. He said, "probably they (caretakers) are not mandated for such long term measures," and added, "this is a direct result of the unholy alliance between BB [Benazir Bhutto] and Ba Ba [father; reference to Ishaq Khan]."

The spokesman termed the increase in salary by Rs[rupees]100 as "a serious joke with the low-paid employees". He also criticised the decision to end the yellow cab scheme and said this move would deny emmployment opportunity to millions.

Editorials Offer Views on Economic Package

Plan Called 'Far Reaching'

BK2208103393 Islamabad THE NATION in English 21 Aug 93 p 6

[Editorial: "Comprehensive Package"]

[Text] Caretaker Prime Minister Moceh Qureshi's anxiously awaited reform package can be characterised as both bold and far reaching. The caretaker government, by definition, does not suffer from some of the political and electoral constraints of an elected government. While this places a question mark over all its policy prescriptions in relation to its mandate which is essentially to hold fair and free elections, it also frees it of inhibitions, allowing it to take tough political decisions. If the reports of the leaders of both major parties in the electoral contest having given their blessings to Mr Qureshi's measures are correct, there can be some hope for their surviving beyond the short tenure of the caretaker government. However, there is still no guarantee that the next elected government will either feel itself bound to everything the caretakers have wrought, or that they will be able to withstand the political pressures that may be exerted on them to reverse some of the caretaker's decisions. Of course some decisions have a life and potency of their own. Those measures which form part of the IMF/World Bank conditionalities for badly needed financial assistance, for example, will be difficult to disturb even for successor governments. These include the structural adjustment policy thrust of increased revenue generation (including the long overdue income and wealth taxes on agriculture), overhaul of tax administration, economies in revenue expenditure, control and regulation of the banking sector by an autonomous central bank (SBP), accelerated, transparent privatisation of remaining state- owned units under a reconstituted Privatisation Commission, proceeds of privatisation to be sued to retire the huge public debt, gradual withdrawal of subsidies on food for the urban populace while offering enhanced support prices for crucial crops such as wheat and edible oils, etc. The increased burden of cost of living for the poor is sought to be compensated by an increase of Rs100 in salaries of Grade 1-16 governemnt sevrvants and a similar raise in the minimum wage. Whether this will be adequate to compensate for the expected round of rising prices of the basket of essentials for the common man is open to question.

Some other measures announced by Mr Qureshi will probably be popular and receive acclaim from all sections of the people. Among these may be counted the abolition of all discretionary quotas of plots for Prime Ministers, Chief Ministers, etc., and the setting up of independent boards for all such grants under strict rules and criteria, setting up Administrative Tribunals for the accountability of corrupt bureaucrats, taking punitive measures against both theft of utilities' services by consumers as well as corrupt and arbitrary managements and staff of these utilities, keeping bank loan defaulters out of the elctoral contest, acceleration of the Social Action Plan and a crackdown on drug traffickers. As for loan defaulters and drug traffickers the list of names of the big fight should be made public. At the same time the procedure to weed them out of the electoral process should be transparent, so that nobody can accuse the Caretaker Government of key selective in accountability process. Some other measures require long term implementation, e.g. restructuring tariffs on imports after studying their impact on local industry. How the caretaker government can ensure the continuation after its departure of what may appear to it to make eminent economic senses has, however, yet to be clarified.

Skepticism Expressed

BK2308132193 Islamabad THE NATION in English 23 Aug 93 p 6

[Editorial: "PM's Press Conference]

[Text] The caretaker Prime Minister's [PM's] Press conference in Karachi was notable for his willingness to face not only the questions about the forthcoming elections, particularly about the disqualification rules being enforced, but also about his vision of the future. Answering probing questions on the impact of his economic package, he conceded that it would cause further inflation and add to the burden of the poor, but he considered it a bitter pill that had to be swallowed to control and stabilise prices. He talked of the possibilities of introducing insurance against unemployment and ill-health for the poor and opening up of the economy even more for larger participation by the private sector, including foreign investment. It is hard to see how his hopes for price stabilisation, relief to the poor, greater investment in the socio-economic development of the country, etc., will materialise. Firstly because he has too short a time span at his disposal to work such miracles and secondly, all the major political parties have rejected important features of his economic package. Eventually, it is they who will make or break them. The PM's prescriptions for the ills we suffer may well be right, but they may have to be abandoned in the interest of the man on the street who will ultimately feel the pinch of these reforms.

These may not be the only shocks that we are in for. The conditions for disqualification of the candidates are such that at least the major political parties may be hard put to finalise their lists within the few days left to them. Not that there is anything wrong with the conditions as such—the drug barons, the loan defaulters, the tax evaders are hardly the kind of the people who deserve to be our representatives—but the screening of names of the candidates under this criteria may prove to be too time-consuming. On the other hand, the lists which have been prepared by various government agencies may or may not be able to stand legal scrutiny if challenged in a court of law. If such litigations start, what effect will it have on the holding of the elections on schedule, is not hard to see. The rejection of papers by the Elections Commission, without giving an opportunity for defence would be wrong. The process of accountability must be transparent if it is to be made credible and long lasting. If candidates are disqualified selectively, it will be seen as a mild attempt to influence the outcome of the election results and thus a device to achieve positive results a la Zia. All these problems must be foreseen and attended to right now, not later.

Army To Decide Between Polish, PRC Tanks

BK1808063993 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 17 Aug 93 p 1, 10

[By Kaleem Omar]

[Text] Karachi—The long pending issue of the 320 new tanks that the Pakistani army plans to buy in order to narrow the quantitative gap in armour between Pakistan and India is likely to be decided in September when the chief of the army staff, General Abdul Waheed, is expected to take a final decision on whether to go in for the Polish T-72M1 tank or the Chinese T-85 tank, sources told THE NEWS on Monday [23 August].

In December last year, the late General Asif Nawaz had visited Poland and signed a memorandum of understanding with the Polish government for the supply of 320 T-72M1 tanks. In extensive trials carried out in Pakistan last year, the T-72M1 had met most of the army's operational and technical requirements with the exception of the ammunition penetration criteria. Subsequently, Poland had agreed to supply improved ammunition of Western origin.

After General Waheed took over as army chief in January this year, he is said to have directed the army authorities to also examine the possibility of buying other types of tanks including the Chinese T-85. Two hundred T-85s are already in the process of being inducted into the Pakistan army by the end of 1993 as part of a deal signed with China earlier.

In trials carried out in Pakistan last year, the T-85 had achieved an ammunition penetration of 480 mm at 2,000 metres, a result said to be considered very good by the army authorities. But the trials also showed that the T-85 still had some technical problems, particularly in its transmission and in its accuracy while firing on the move.

The Pakistan army authorities were also said to be concerned about the fact that the T-85 had not been inducted into the Chinese army, which is developing a new main battle tank for itself. China is also collaborating with Pakistan in the development of a Pakistani main battle tank, the MBT-2000. The MBTL-2000 project was begun with much fanfare during General Aslam Beg's term as army chief, but it appears to have gone into the doldrums of late.

Sources said that the problems with the T-85 encountered during trials had been discussed with the Chinese authorities by General Waheed when he, along with Lieutenant General Farrakh Khan, the chief of the general staff, and Major General A.M. Tariq, director-general of the GHQ's combat development directorate, had visited China in March this year.

During the course of their discussion, the Pakistani officials are said to have told the Chinese that one of the reasons why Pakistan was considering the Polish T-72 tank was its ready availability. Sources said the army chief had told the Chinese that the final decision regarding which tank to go in for—the Polich T-72 or the Chinese T-85—was likely to be taken by him in September.

Meanwhile, the British ministry of defence has also jumped into the fray and offered to sell Pakistan 300 refurbished Chieftain tanks from war reserve stock. The ministry of defence plans to sell a total of up to 700 Chieftain tanks eventually, out of the British army's total of 830 which are all being replaced by the Challenger 1 and 2. Around 100 have already been sold at scrap prices and some have been destroyed under the Conventional Forces Europe Treaty.

The Pakistan army has budgeted a total of US $311 million for the purchase of new tanks over the next three years.

Article Views Vital Statistics of Indian Missile

BK1808110593 Islamabad THE NATION in English 17 Aug 93 p 5

[Article by Eas Bokhari under the rubric 'Defense Notes': "Prithvi—Some Facts and Figures"]

[Text] India has the nice habit of testing some of its ballistic missiles when high Pakistani officials visit India. The case in point is the testing of 'Prithvi' during secretary level talks last year in this month of August. "The indigenous 'Prithvi' (Earth) was test fired at 9:30 a.m. (0400 GMT) in clear sunny weather from a range some 15 kilometres (nine miles) from Balasore in the Eastern state of Orissa," the Press Trust of India (PTI) said.

The then Defence Minister, Sharad Pawar and senior defence officials watched the launch which had been delayed from the scheduled date due to heavy rains. Of course, the Indian missile wizard and now advisor to the Defence Ministry, Dr Abdul Kalam was there to see the flight performance of his brainchild. As usual no details of this performance are available. It is however known through Press sources that in February 1988 the missile achieved a range of 150-250 km i.e. 93-156 miles depending on the type of warhead used. The maximum payload which can be projected by the 'Prithvi' missile system is one tonne.

While checking with some authoritative accounts, it appears that the Press figures are fairly accurate. The bench mark data provided about 'Prithvi' by IISS (International Institute of Strategic Studies, London) as published in the Adelphi Paper No. 252 by Martin Navias (Summer, 1990) lists the Indian 'Prithvi' under the category of Medium Range Missiles, i.e., those with a range of 200-900 kilometres. According to the London publication, 'Prithvi' is capable of projecting a payload of 1000 kg (warhead).

According to a recent report in the HINDUSTAN TIMES from a reporter "Somewhere in the Western Sector, i.e., our Eastern border," 'Prithvi'—India's first indigenous built long-range surface to surface missile (SSM) has been inducted into the Indian Army and the II Corps has achieved the distinction of being the first corps to be equipped with the missile."

The missile is kept stored in a forward ammunition depot in East Punjab. The deployment of the missile is such that key military installations and major Pakistani towns fall within its range. It should be possible for the Indians to target such that key military installations and major Pakistani towns fall within its range. It should be possible for the Indians to target such towns as Sialkot, Lahore, Gujranwala and even Faisalabad.

According to the Indian sources, the reason for the deployment of 'Prithvi' is more of a suspicion that Pakistan has developed or is in the process of developing Harf-3. So the real reason is missile envy if not any thing else in this case and the induction has coincided with the 'test' exercise of the 15th Indian Division which had ranged for more than a month or so and which concluded in the first week of May, '93. During this period, 'Prithvi' missiles were transported (of course under heavy security cover) and kept at the base Ordnance Depot.

There appears to be an undue fright in some Pakistani circles about the Indian deployment. Such missiles have been recently used in the Gulf War by Iraq ('Scuds' and their derivatives) and in a couple of cases even against Pakistan by Afghanistan. The performance of 'Scud' at the very best can be termed as a deterrent rather than as lethal. It has an unpredictable CEP and its performance had farther deteriorated when the Iraqis tried to modify it, and thus sacrificed its ballistics (organic) for the achievement of some additional kilometres to reachs Riyadh and Tel-Aviv respectively. The Iranians paid back in the same coin in the Iran-Iraq war to the Iraqis, and their missiles ironically were also 'Scuds'. Nothing conclusive was achieved by the use of these 'Scuds'. The first one I suppose was used by the Egyptians in the Sinai many years ago. So 'Prithvi' for all its lethality rhetoric and small CEP is more of a deterrent than anything else. We must appreciate that it is a costly conception and then it uses liquid propellant which is not easy to handle and transport. Aircraft can do the same job and quite cheaply.

The Indian Press has provided a highly inflated account of this 'state of the at missile'. For that matter any modern ballistic missile must be a technological wonder and we must concede that the Indians are much ahead of us in missile fabrication technology in spite of MTCR [Missile Technology Control Regime] bindings.

'Prithvi' they say is equipped with an on board computer which provides inertial guidance or more simply, the inertial guidance computer reads the topography of the area over which the missile flies and alters its flight pattern according to the layout of the ground. The missile can correct its flight pattern even if the engines have burned out. The Indian missile can store a number of alternative commands to change the flight path so as to evade the 'Patriot' type of anti-missile missiles. The missile thus has the capability of taking on a number of other targets. According to the Indians, it has a stunning CEP of 150-200 metres which is really incredible, and makes the missile usable against pin-point targets.

The Indian 'Prithvi' missile regiment consists of three batteries, each with four launching trucks and a sort of HQ (Launch Conrol Center). Each battery has a special survey truck for target acquisition and the working out of firing data. The misile regiment is always well protected from aerial attack, and has adequate air defence arrangements.

It is not quite clear from gleanings of the Indian Press as to where and how the missile is going to be used. There is an interesting passage which I quote here from the Indian Press. The Prithvi missile has the capability to destroy concrete structures and naturally has an immense lethality about it, but then surprisingly, "meanwhile it is not known who has been delegated the powers to use the missile systerm in case of an emergency."

One thing of course is certain, and there should be no ambiguity about this, it is a fact that no real anti-missile missile has yet been fielded even by the developed countries. The Israeli 'Arrow' is still under test and as well all know the US has almost shelved their famous SDI (Strategic Defence Initiative) programme which has now been substituted by a 'Sensible Defence Initiative', i.e., a much more scaled down effort.

Although the 'Patriot' was used in an anti-missile missile role (after considerable up date even during operations) the missile never really proved an effective weapon in the anti-missile role. The postwar analysis, and notwithstanding sales in the Middle East, 'Patriot' remains an anti-aircraft weapon against very high flying aircraft and it just happened to incinerate a couple of older types of 'Scuds' in the Gulf War. That's about all.

What, however, is really dangerous about the Indian Ballistic missiles is their variety and range. 'Agni' is almost an ICBM—and I'm told that 'Akash' is as effective as 'Patriot' and incorporates the latest PAR (Phased Array Radar) technology, a novelty in the Third World.

A word or two about the propellant of 'Prithvi'. The missile uses liquid propellant which consists of 50 per cent oxylidene and the balance 50 per cent of triethylamine and nitric acid used as an oxidiser. A solid fuel would have been better for field service.

Editorial Urges Firm Stand on F-16's

BK2308102193 Karachi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 6 Aug 93 p 5

[Editorial: "F-16's and Nuclear Program: Do Not Lose Out on the Deal"]

[Text] According to press reports, Pakistan made it clear to U.S. officials on Wednesday [4 August] that the United States should either supply 60 F-16 aircraft—for which Islamabad has already paid $658 million—or return the paid sum with interest as per the agreement. Pakistan is not ready to pay the parking charges for these aircraft that the United States has been levying. The experience of Pakistan and several other Muslim countries indicates that the United States sees no problem in being unfaithful toward its friends. As a consequence, several Muslim countries have become victims of its perverse attitude. But, this is a first-time experience with Washington, which, like the Indian leadership, has tended to show dishonesty in business dealings because its business establishments are mostly controlled by Jews.

The deal for the supply of the F-16's was contracted not only between Pakistan and the General Dynamics Company but also between the two governments, and Islamabad had paid for these aircraft in advance in accordance with the conditions set by the United States. When the assembly of these aircraft was completed by the company, however, the United States not only stopped supplying these aircraft on the pretext of the Pressler Amendment, but also asked Pakistan to pay parking charges for the planes. Nothing can be more outrageous than the fact that the planes manufactured on the basis of advance payments are parked in the United States instead of being sent to Pakistan. In spite of the fact that we have not been at fault at all in this regard, this country's $658 million are stuck there, and it is also paying the parking charges for the planes. On what moral grounds and what U.S. and international laws this affront is being committed against us is incomprehensible. Pakistan wants to acquire these planes in view of its special geographical conditions and India's preparations for war. India has already committed three aggressions against us, one of which led to the division of Pakistan. Even today, having been disturbed by the prevailing situation in occupied Kashmir, India is planning to attack Azad Kashmir. In 1950's and 1960's, we adopted a policy of dependence on the United States, and as a result of the 1959 agreement, we remained under a mistaken impression that in the event of aggression from India, the United States would rush to our aid. That expectation proved to be erroneous and based on sheer wishful thinking in 1965 and 1971. Interpreting the 1965 agreement, the U.S. had stated that Pakistan would be protected in the event of a threat from the communist countries. When India attacked erstwhile East Pakistan in 1971 with the cooperation of the communist superpower, the Soviet Union, the United States did not take any effective steps in spite of a 20-year treaty of friendship. This led to the tragedy of the division of Pakistan. In the 1980's, when the United States saw an advantage in cooperating with Pakistan in connection with the Afghan holy war, it became our ally, traditional friend, and patron again. As soon as the communist threat vanished, however, the United States forgot all its promises, agreements and treaties and distanced itself from Islamabad in a manner as if it had never known Pakistan.

For the past three years, the United States has been playing the role of Pakistan's adversary with its efforts to have aid and loans to Pakistan stopped and defense, commercial, and industrial agreements with independent and sovereign countries canceled. It has also been trying to pressure Pakistan into bowing down and becoming subservient to India. It sometimes threatens to declare Pakistan a terrorist state by placing it on a watch list and sometimes accuses it of interfering in the international affairs of others by saying that Islamabad is extending support and assistance to the Kashmiris.

Our nuclear program is the main eyesore for the United States and the Pakistani people are aware that all these U.S. efforts are designed to have our nuclear program rolled back. The United States should know that we have to deal with such an eternal enemy, which, like the Arabs and Palestinians' enemy, Israel and Bosnia's enemy, Serbia, wants to wipe our name from the face of the earth. Whether it is the F-16 aircraft or the nuclear program, our basic problem is to defend ourselves against India. The policy of dependence on the United States has failed and the idea of defense through conventional means has also become obsolete.

The United States wants us to abandon our nuclear program and to depend on F-16's and other such borrowed weapons so that it can distance itself from us whenever it wishes and leave us to the mercy of India, like in 1965. But no Pakistani Government can make the mistake of accepting the U.S. incentives or buckling under its pressure because it will be a suicidal and criminal act. The only way to come out of this situation is to achieve the goal of self- reliance and strengthen our industrial base so that no country can blackmail us. The Nawaz Sharif government had made a move toward this end by raising the slogan of self-reliance. Nawaz Sharif claims that during the past two and half years, he neither sought aid nor begged for loans from the United States, and it was due to this policy that he has been punished.

However, all these things are now history. We have already imported a prime minister from the United States and the caretaker government has been formed. But we must remain vigilant so as not to allow the United States to achieve its objectives through this government.

The members of the caretaker government, and the prime minister himself, have been declaring that the current setup has come into existence with the limited mandate of holding elections on schedule, which is a fact. But, in the national interest, the government must ask the United States to return the paid amount with interest, in accordance with its own principles, if it cannot supply F-16's to Pakistan. The government must also not compromise on the nuclear program, nor should it give any assurances to the U.S. about the "rolling back" of the country's nuclear program. If the U.S. appropriately responds to any of our proposals, then it is all right and this issue should be kept pending for two more months so that the newly elected government can make a decision in this regard according to the aspirations of the people. This is a matter of national interest as well as of the conscience of the prime minister and his colleagues. They must ensure that they do not end up paying the cost of the F-16's in dollars, as well as in the form of our nuclear program. Pakistan has already seen and endured several tragedies in the past and that is why the Pakistanis are apprehensive about any future tragedy. After all, there must have been an objective behind the dismissal of a strong and stable government and the formation of the present temporary setup. The nation, therefore, must remain mentally ready not to accept any new shock. May God not let us come to such a pass!

U.S. Action Toward Sudan Said Based Only on Suspicion

BK2208093993 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 20 Aug 93 p 12

[By Arif Jamal]

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 19—The Foreign Office said on Thursday [19 August] that Sudan has been declared a terrorist state by the United States only on suspicion.

Reacting cautiously in giving Pakistan's official position vis-a- vis the American decision, a Foreign Office Spokesman said, "Sudan has been declared a terrorist state only on suspicion. As far as we know the charges against Sudan have not been proved."

It was not clear whether Pakistan or any other Muslim country would ask the United States to reverse its decision. Going by the past record, the American decision will be accepted by most of the Muslim states, including Pakistan. "Pakistan is against all sorts of terrorism, at individual as well as state level," the spokesman said.

The United States has alleged that Sudan allows the use of its territory as sanctuary for terrorists including Islamic Jihad.

"We also believe safe houses and other facilities to support radical groups are allowed to exist in Sudan with the apparent approval of the Sudanese government," the official American State Department statement said. "We believe that reports of training in Sudan of militant extremists who commit acts of terrorism in neighbouring countries are credible." The official statement, however, admits that there is no evidence of "specific and credible threats against American citizens in Sudan."

Under US law (Section 6 of the Export Administration Act of 1979), the Secretary of State can determine whether states have "repeatedly provided support for acts of international terrorism." States found by the Secretary of State to have provided support are put on the US Terrorism List.

The American decision has disqualified Sudan from virtually all US assistance, both military and economic, and carries the threat of further embargoes, like the ones the US has imposed on Libya, Iran and Cuba.

Sudanese Support of Somali Rebels Denied

BK2308115893 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Text] The Sudanese minister of state for finance, Mr. 'Abd-al-Wahhab Ahmad Hamzah, arrived in Islamabad today for talks with Pakistani officials on increased economic cooperation. Talking to newsmen, he described his country's economic relations with Pakistan as satisfactory. To a question, he denied reports that Sudan has been supporting General Farah Aidid, whose troops are attacking UN forces in Somalia.

U.S. 'Preoccupation' With Islamic Fundamentalism Viewed

BK2308043293 Islamabad THE NATION in English 19 Aug 93 p 6

[Editorial: "Rise of Fundamentalism"]

[Text] The speculation that Sudan is likely to be declared a terrorist state by the US soon, has again brought under media scrutiny the US Administration's preoccupation with what it terms as Islamic fundamentalism. The administration has acknowledged on a number of occasions that Islam has no link with terrorism. Because if that was the case the US would not have had such long-standing ties with Saudi Arabia or more recently with Kuwait. And yet when they find that certain Islamic elements are using violence as a means of registering protest against what they perceive to be political injustice or Western civilisation's hegemonic inroads into their culture, they start dubbing not just the fundamentalists, but all Muslims as potential terrorists. They dubbed Iran a terrorist state for its alleged support of Hizballah in Lebanon. The irony of that being that Hizballah came into being to fight Jewish terrorism. Israel's terrorist activities against the Palestinians are well documented and yet the US does not consider it a terrorist state. The surge of Hindu fundamentalism in India has resulted in the killings of thousands of Muslims in India. The Indian army even today is engaged in the ethnic cleansing of Muslims in Kashmir. The slaughter of Muslims at the hands of Serbs and Croats again is not so much a political conflict as an expression of religious hatred and yet it is not deemed fundamentalism, because the West is wary of an Islamic state in the heart of Europe. The bombing of World Trade Centre in New York for which certain Arab Muslims have been held as suspects, has generated a strange kind of hysteria against Muslims in general. The expected deportation of Sheikh Omer Abdal-Rehman, a blind clear from Egypt, is one manifestation of that.

Ms Benazir Bhutto in an interview to an American journal has traced the growth of fundamentalism to two causes: search for identify and reaction to West's cultural invasion. In Egypt, Algeria and some other countries it has taken the form of a revolt against pro-Western regimes which are judged as guilty of sacrificing their Islamic identity at the altar of political expediency. For some reason the US keeps ignoring the causes of such movements and tries to deal in a ham-handed fashion with its symptoms. The so-called fundamentals and—through an extension of the same—the Muslims at large are actually the victims of injustice and not its perpetrators. They have suffered cultural, political and economic injustices of all kinds. So far as extremism is concerned, which religion does not have its adherents. Picking on Muslims and ignoring the fundamentalists in Christianity, Judaism and Hinduism is the height of intellectual bigotry.

Editorial Views U.S., Western 'Anti-Muslim Posture'

BK1908140793 Rawalpindi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 18 Aug 93 p 4

[Editorial: "U.S. and Western Hostility Toward Islam: Need for Coexistence"]

[Text] Muslims in Indian-occupied Kashmir observed Indian Independence Day as Black Day. Black flags were hoisted; a complete strike was observed, and all government functions were boycotted on that day. Protest demonstrations were also held at various places. Indian troops outdid their previous record of brutality and oppression in crushing these demonstrations. Hundreds of Kashmiris were injured by indiscriminate firing from the Indian forces. Earlier, on Pakistan's Independence Day, Kashmiri Muslims hoisted Pakistan's green crescent flag over their houses. Enraged by this, Indian troops started firing at a number of places. The brutality and violence of the Indian forces has been continuing unabated in occupied Kashmir for half a century. But the irony is that the United States and other liberal developed countries are keeping their eyes closed and ignoring this genocide. These are the countries that never tire of emphasizing the protection of human rights in their policies and statements. But they keep quiet whenever the matter involves Muslims, showing a culpable indifference.

The whole world has witnessed how the anti-Islamic forces united in a bid to wipe out the Bosnian Muslims. The United Nations failed to play any role in this regard. Giving a statement in the Senate the other day, Pakistani Foreign Minister Abdus Sattar said that there is a contradiction between the words and deeds of some UN powers on the Bosnia issue. In fact, Bosnian Muslims have been the victims of this contradiction between the words and deeds of the United States, Europe, and the developed countries. Of course, dozens of verbal resolutions have been passed at the United Nations on Kashmir, Palestine, and Bosnia. But they have faded into oblivion with the passage of time, while the situations in which Muslims are being subjected to oppression remain unchanged. A prejudicial campaign against the Islamic world is now being launched in the United States, Europe, and countries under their influence around the world, by raising the specter of fundamentalism. The United States and the electronic and print media under its influence are in the forefront in this regard. We do not know why Islam is being targeted by negative propaganda in this era of education, broad-mindedness, and liberalism, or why Christian sentiments are being aroused as they were in the Middle Ages when the world is about to enter the 21st century of rapid industrial development.

The United States and the West are well aware of the fact that Islam is not a new religion, nor has it ever negated Christianity. Islam, which emerged 1,400 years ago, is a continuation of the earlier religions and their completion, as well. Believers in Islam acknowledge that Jesus Christ was a distinguished prophet of God, and without this acknowledgement a Muslim's faith in God cannot be called total. Viewed in this context, the inimical and hostile propaganda against the Islamic world and Muslims by the United States and Europe is baseless and illogical. It is imperative that the United States, Europe, and the Christian world adopt the ideology of coexistence instead of trying to wipe out Muslims, and to prevent the world from [words indistinct].

Attempts are being made at various places in the world to suppress Muslims in pursuit of the anti-Muslim policy of the United States and Europe. Muslims are being butchered without hindrance in Palestine, Lebanon, Kashmir, Bosnia, Eritrea, Burma, and Cyprus. The ghost of fundamentalism is being raised in independent

Islamic countries where practical efforts are under way to implement Islamic rules. The Muslims were entitled to power in Algeria on the basis of the elections, but they were prevented from assuming power. The Islamic forces in Egypt are being branded as extremists and terrorists and are subjected to jail terms or hangings. In Tunisia, too, life has been made miserable for those supporting the implementation of Islamic rule. Sudan, where Islamic forces enjoy the upper hand, has been included on the U.S. list of terrorists.

In the preceding decade, the United States had termed the Iranian revolution an act of zealots. The hostile U.S. attitude toward the Islamic world and its anti-Muslim posture is not consistent with any reason or logic. The United States and Europe need to foster the feeling of tolerance and strive to live with Muslims in the spirit of coexistence. It will facilitate the end of oppression and brutality against Muslims in Kashmir, Bosnia, Palestine, and other Muslim-minority regions, and the creation of an overall tension-free atmosphere of peace and tranquillity in the world. The human race badly needs peace today as it always has. In order to achieve this objective, the United States should refrain from torturing Muslims by taking the stick of the new world order in its hand, and should adopt a policy of cooperation in the spirit of tolerance.

Foreign Minister Comments on Moscow, Beijing Visits

BK2108095293 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 21 Aug 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Abdus Sattar has said that the international community should pressure Serbia to end its aggression against Bosnia-Herzegovina. He was talking to newsmen in Islamabad last night after paying visits to Moscow and Beijing in his capacity as the head of the Islamic Conference Organization mission on Bosnia-Herzegovina. The foreign minister, who has already visited three other permanent member-nations of the United Nations Security Council, urged the international community to ensure the implementation of the cease-fire in Bosnia in light of the UN resolutions and the decisions of the international conference on Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Earlier, Foreign Minister Abdus Sattar held bilateral talks with Qian Qichen, the Chinese deputy prime minister and foreign minister, in Beijing. He apprised the Chinese deputy premier of the increasing oppression and tyranny in occupied Kashmir. He said Pakistan is ready to hold a meaningful dialogue with India to resolve the Kashmir dispute in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions.

Turkmen Communications Minister Arrives in Islamabad

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[Text] The Turkmenistan Communications Minister (Rakhmanov Finakoli Rakhmanoch) says Pakistan will play an important role in expanding and strengthening the communications system in the Central Asian countries. Talking to newsmen on his arrival in Islamabad to take part in a tripartite commission meeting, he said the development of a communications system will pave the way for the promotion of trade among Central Asian countries. He expressed the hope that the meeting of the tripartite commission—comprising Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Turkmenistan—will yield far-reaching results. The Turkmenistan minister referred to the centuries-old friendly relations between Pakistan and the Central Asian states and said the promotion of economic ties between them will bring prosperity for all of them.